WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Will the poor survive the Governor's cuts?

by Laura Studebaker and Monica Peabody

"It is like we're standing in a room with not much else and they are removing the floorboards from beneath us." - Angie Kelly, POWER member and TANF recipient

Members of POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights) are hard at work attempting to convince legislators to overturn the deadly budget cuts Governor Gregoire has set into motion. On Jan. 10, the first day of session, POWER members, wearing the word "Cut" in large letters, visited legislative offices and made short appearances in the Gallery. We were asked to leave when the guards realized we were protesting, but not before the legislators saw us and understood our message that there are faces behind the numbers, real people being severely affected by their decisions.

The following week, on MLK Day, we were back, with nearly 600 poor people from around the state. Accompanied by the Artesian Rumble Arkestra, we marched on the Capitol, enjoyed a rousing rally on the steps, and visited our legislators with a clear message that the poor will not stand for budget cuts that will devastate our families. While many legislators are sympathetic and said they would do what they could, they say their hands are tied on raising revenue.

Members of POWER lobbying at legislative opening day on Jan 10 - Photo by Berd Whitlock

While all of the budget cuts are horrific, we are focusing specifically on those affecting low-income families. On February 1 over 5,000 families will reach a newly imposed 5-year time limit and lose their TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) grant. For most families, this is their only cash income. They will be left with a small food stamp supplement. The Welfare Reform Act of 1996 created a time limit to be determined by each state. States are allowed to exempt 20% of their caseload and Washington previously extended everyone who was participating. We have never come close to reaching 20%; this mean spirited decision saves money by ending support to nearly 10,000 children.

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The five-year time limit is cumulative, not consecutive, so every month a family receives TANF is counted against their 60-month lifetime limit. Since education is discouraged and the program is designed to push parents into low-wage,

▸ **POVERTY,** continued on page 9

Withholding public disclosure

WSDOT Secretary Hammond to be investigated for possible ethics violation related to the 2009 Seattle mayoral election

by Walt Jorgensen

In an oral ruling on January 7, Thurston County Superior Court Judge Paula Casey ordered the Washington State Executive Ethics Board to investigate a complaint of unethical actions by Washington Department of Transportation Secretary Paula Hammond and eleven other state employees, including Ron Paananen, the manager of the state's deep-bore tunnel project in Seattle. As a result of Judge Casey's order, the Ethics Board will have to conduct an investigation to determine if one or more of the employees will be fined up to $5,000 dollars for violations of the state's Ethics in Public Service Act.

The case stems from an ethics complaint I filed alleging that Hammond, Paananen and ten other employees violated state ethics laws when, in the months leading up to the 2009 Seattle mayoral election, they delayed providing a video simulation of the destruction of the Alaskan Way Viaduct by an earthquake. Judge Casey's oral ruling is a total victory. Now, we just have to hope the Ethics Board does its job rather than find excuses for these high-level employees who concealed public records to affect an election.

Secretary Hammond stated, "We decided we were going to handle how [the video] was released. We weren't going to leave it to [the requester]."

While Elizabeth Campbell, a 2009 Seattle mayoral candidate who was unsuccessful in the primary, waited more than 30 days for the employees to provide the record, the employees engaged in public relations and political activities related to the record. However, when KING-TV in Seattle requested the video simulation, the WSDOT employees provided them with the video in less than two days, while Campbell continued to wait.

The Executive Ethics Board did not investigate the first complaint when it was filed on December 30, 2009. The Board's executive director originally stated, in January 2010, the Board lacked jurisdiction to investigate the complaint. Last November, the Board argued before Judge Casey the complaint was "incomplete" and therefore the Board did not have to investigate the matter. Last month, the Board tried a third argument before judge Casey, telling her the Board had discretion whether or not to investigate, and it was free to choose not to investigate the complaint at all. In her oral ruling, Judge Casey rejected all three arguments; the complaint is complete, the board has jurisdiction, and the law requires the Board to investigate.

The Ethics in Public Service Act (RCW 42.52) makes it an ethical violation for a state employee to intentionally conceal a public record. In a previous case, the Executive Ethics Board determined a delay in disclosing a requested public record constitutes concealment. The Public Records Act mandates records be released in five days unless the agency requires more than five days in order to make the record available. I alleged in my complaint that the WSDOT employees did not need more than five days to release the record; the employees stated they would take 30 days to release the record so they could hold it back during four of the last five weeks of the hotly-contested Seattle mayoral election; and the employees engaged in political and public relations activities related to the video while the requester waited more than 33 days before the record was provided. This willful delay on political grounds violated the records act and constitutes unethical behavior on the part of Hammond and eleven other employees.

The original request to WSDOT for a copy of the video simulation of the destruction of the Alaskan Way Viaduct was made on September 23, 2009. Between September 23 and October 16,

▸ **INVESTIGATION,** continued on page 10

Letters to *Works In Progress*

Praise for AA article

Thank you Amy and Dean for your hopeful article on Alcoholics Anonymous and anarchy. In a wonderful Olympia synchronicity, I had just finished reading Woodcock and Avakumović's biography on Peter Kropotkin ("the anarchist prince"). I learned something more about history and trends of anarchy. My immediate next reading was the latest issue of *Works In Progress*. I read Amy and Dean's article with heightened interest.

An insight in my read of the Kropotkin biography is this: The challenge of change is to break away from the cult of individualism and to begin to act responsibly in the interests of the community. The process of production of food, shelter and energy, while sustaining all life on the planet provides the greatest challenge for the possibility of anarchy. There simply has lacked a critical mass of people who buy in and are able to act on these ideas in a functional way. Kropotkin talked about decentralized, communal functioning to meet these needs (anarcho-communism).

Amy and Dean's article shares the startling inspiration that anarcho-relationships are being built in Alcoholics Anonymous, which may provide the interpersonal infrastructure for systemic change. Although it seems unlikely on the face of it, the Alcoholics Anonymous movement could pre-figure a societal shift forward in the transition from capitalism, centralization of wealth and greed to equitable and healthy relationships.

I search for possibilities, however marginal, especially in the present day, when the world is stressed to the maximum of our ability to survive and we need some solutions, fast.

-Tom Nogler

WIP on Facebook?

Make a face on facebook. We need your influence everywhere in the community.

-Kathryn LePome and Mike Nath

Sort of a funny story, we set up a Facebook last year, before our 20th anniversary. But we didn't really know what we were doing, and we set it up as an individual, not as an organization. And since you have to use a person's name on an individual Facebook, we couldn't be "Works In Progress," so we had to be "Works N. Progress." lol

But we figured all that out. We'll be setting up a real Facebook soon, and adding Facebook compatability to our new website. :)

Access is always important

An open letter to the Coalition for a Fair Budget:

Congratulations on your first Fair Budget Fair. I am truly sorry that I was not able to attend. I am also frustrated, saddened, hurt and angry that I was not able to attend.

I wish I could say that I am also surprised, but frankly, it no longer surprises me when normal-bodied people forget that an inaccessible entrance bears a remarkable resemblance to a sign saying "Cripples not welcome." What does surprise me, however, is that you would actually mention that 49,000 people with disabilities stand to lose state assistance, apparently without realizing that many of the actual people represented by that statistic would be barred from attending this event. I was hoping to learn more about that threat myself, since it directly pertains to me, but I guess I'll just have to try to find that information somewhere else. I was looking forward to sharing ideas with others in my community, but I guess I'll just have to try to do that on my own.

You know, Coalition, if I can just talk to you like a person for a moment, I'm tired of writing this letter. I'm tired of having to write this letter. I'm tired of having to write this letter to people who really ought to know better. It's bad enough that I periodically have to remind various state agencies that I exist. It's really pretty insulting to have people who present themselves as my allies hold an event at which my fate is discussed that I, and thousands who share my fate, cannot attend. If we're worth talking about, we're worth talking to.

In spite of all this, I hope the event was otherwise successful and productive. I hope that we can work together to ensure that people with disabilities are included in all that comes out of this event. As you pointed out, many thousands of us, disabled and non-disabled alike, are facing a grave threat and a hard struggle. Every one of us needs all the allies we can get. We can't afford to be kept apart from each other.

I'll close with a slogan from the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, which has become popular in the disability rights movement: Nothing about us without us!

-David Griffiths

YOU should write for WIP!

A different economics

In a 2006 interview with Oliver Stone, for the documentary film "South of the Border," former President of Argentina, Nestor Kirchner, recounted details of a meeting with former President of the USA, George W. Bush.

According to Kirchner, Bush said that the best way toward economic revitalization is war. And according to Kirchner, Bush also said that war has been good for the economy of the USA.

This is illustrative of our former President's classist approach to economics. It is an approach that has led to social polarization and violence, and brutal struggles for survival by increasingly more and more people the world over– very much including right here in the USA.

In Bush's mind, it was acceptable for some to achieve economic benefit for themselves—at the expense of the well-being of others.

In Bush's mind, it was acceptable for some few to take advantage of others for material/personal gain.

What Bush and many other similarly-minded policy-makers fail to recognize is that in reality, we are all part of one human family, and that it is incorrect for anyone to treat anyone else poorly.

No one is free when others are oppressed, an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, an injury to one is an injury to all.

It is incorrect for some to take advantage of others. For example, it is wrong when soldiers in the military are ordered to kill based on lies.

Case in point: the "War on Terror" is a mis-nomer. It is wrongly named. What the war is, really—on the part of the keepers of economic and political power—is a war for global dominance. It is imperialism. Now, truth is stranger than fiction here, and the truth is that the USA is engaged in a barbarous militarism—a militarism geared *not* toward defense, but instead toward offense, toward geo-strategic, economic and political superiority. Yes, it is a militarism geared toward hegemony.

And the real truth is also that **war is not good** for the economy. War is violence, and violence is bad for the economy. War is bad for the economy. War of aggression is the worst known form of violence, for it contains every other form of violence, including rape, murder, and theft.

The truth is that war is bankrupting and impoverishing our society. This war of imperialism sows and reaps violence, discord, hate, deprivation, fear, and distrust, etc. the world over. Resources and human effort go toward destruction and overall societal/environmental destabilization, rather than toward stability, sustainability, and toward mutual uplift—overall societal uplift.

Now what we have is a wall. It is a wall of classism, it is a divider between those who have, and those who do not have. A large part of the infrastructure of the wall is made up of the military-industrial-(congressional-media)-complex.

Maybe it is the job of some of us, like me and you—maybe it is up to us, we who live here in the belly of the beast—to deconstruct this wall of privilege and oppression. Maybe it is our job, should we choose to take it upon ourselves, to break down this terrible wall of violence and destruction.

Follow the yellow brick road, find the wizard, pull back the curtain, let Dorothy return to Kansas!

Think: We can use the infrastructure of this wall to create a better world, a world of mutual well-being, that is, a world of well-being for all people. Or we can look on, while a corrupt system allows further insidious and avaricious evils: predations upon the relatively weak and defenseless. The choice is mine and yours, the choice is ours; let's knock down this wall, and bring the money home. Bring the money spent on this/these insane war/s of greed and oppression, home! Bring the Billions Home!

This message reflects the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation campaign to Bring the Billions Home! Please see http://WWFOR.org for more information.

-Berd Whitlock

Questions for Dana

My God, Dana wrote the best description of what really matters today!

[Read Dana's fabulous description of our current economic woes at www.olywip.org, the Dec. 2010 issue.]

Who are some of the "folks who do know what is going on and are always right"? Do I need to buy one of Dana's books? I will! Thanks for any help.

-Peter Wilson
whiskeyandabeer@gmail.com

Dana writes:

Here are a few suggestions:

www.ravibatra.com
: Economist at SMU who predicted the economic meltdown back in 2006

www.corpwatch.org/index.php
: Keeping an eye on corporations so you don't have to

mediamonarchy.blogspot.com
: These guys are complete iconoclasts who always question everything and have unique perspectives

www.opensecrets.org
: Keeping track of who is buying the government

tinyurl.com/27Lk706
: [*Rolling Stone* article] Goldman Sachs exposed

tinyurl.com/272ekvr
: [*Rolling Stone* article] Foreclosure scam exposed

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BLpEXzAAyo
: Insider explanation of military/industrial complex and the robber barons

www.equalitytrust.org.uk
: Thoroughly researched and documented explanation of why economic disparity matters

www.fromthewilderness.com
: Michael Ruppert's home page

www.democracynow.org
: Amy Goodman tells the news the corporate media doesn't want you to know

www.counterpunch.org
: More news the corporate media doesn't want you to know

www.fair.org/index.php?page=8&content_type=counterspin
: Details on how the corporate media misleads you

There are others but this is all I can think of off hand. My books are all novels and I am afraid that I have never written a book on this subject.

-Dana Walker

JOIN THE ONE BIG UNION

Join Olympia IWW

The Industrial Workers of the World is a union for all workers, dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries, and in our communities. We organize to win better conditions today and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers to meet the needs of the entire population, not just a handful of exploiters.

The Olympia General Membership Branch of the IWW meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, at the IWW office upstairs at the corner of 4th & Adams.

Feel free to contact us at olywobs@riseup.net. Also, please pick up a free newspaper from our box on the corner of 4th and Washington downtown!

WORKS IN PROGRESS
ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE
THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Colby Batts	hali panneton
Conan O'Berryhill	Bethel Prescott
Dave Campbell	Maggie Reardon
Marylea Coday	Creighton Rose
Mike Coday	Sandia Slaby
C. J. Conner	Sylvia Smith
Renee Cruickshank	Jeff Sowers
Wally Cuddeford	Pat Tassoni
Christian DesMarets	Diana Valenzuela
Ben Gus	Berd Whitlock
Teresa Jennings	Scott Yoos
Margaret Love	
Joe Martineau	and room for more...
Joshua Neuhouser	

This is still a gray box

WIP Schedule
Submission Deadline:
February 18
PO Box 295
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olywip@gmail.com
Proofreading:
February 25
(Be there for the first read!)

ADVERTISING RATES
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ZAHID CHAUDHRY UPDATE

Decorated, disabled local veteran faces deportation hearing in April

by Wendy Tanowitz

Background: Muhammad Zahid Chaudhry's 8-year-long effort to be granted the citizenship he has earned reveals the post-9-11 nightmare that can befall a person who happens to have been born in certain parts of the world—in this case Pakistan. Zahid had come to U.S. several times—always legally—and since 2001 has been a *legal permanent resident* through his marriage to a U.S. citizen. In March 2001, out of a passionate desire to be of service to the country he loves, he joined the Washington Army National Guard. The totally unforeseeable events which occurred on 9-11-2001 transformed the role of the National Guard, and Zahid's formerly stateside unit became incorporated into the U.S. Army as a fighting force preparing to be sent to Iraq.

Zahid's legitimate application for naturalization (citizenship), originally filed in 2003, was based on his Qualified Military Service. Instead of the expedited citizenship which was promised to those who served in the armed forces during a time of war, his application somehow got "lost" and he had to re-file in 2004. The second application was then denied by US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on grounds that are false, frivolous, out-of-jurisdiction and irrelevant. His status as a legal permanent resident was immediately threatened, as the powers-that-be put him in deportation proceedings.

In the six-plus years since his application was first denied, Zahid has lived in a topsy-turvy world of harassment, intimidation, provocation, prodding, surveillance, and cruel interrogations. An exquisitely fit person when he entered the military, he left in a wheelchair. He suffers debilitating migraines, traumatic brain injuries, nightmares, anxiety attacks, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), intense back and neck pain, claustrophobia attacks, narcolepsy, memory loss, tinnitus and hearing loss, among other disabling conditions– all of which are documented as being service-connected. In this physically weakened condition, he has been fighting for the right to remain in the U.S. with his wife, two step-children and four step-grandchildren.

In the six-plus years since his application was first denied, Zahid has lived in a topsy-turvy world of harassment, intimidation, provocation, prodding, surveillance, and cruel interrogations.

[WIP note: For more on Zahid's story, read last month's WIP interview of Zahid at www.olywip.org.]

Recent Hearing in Seattle: On January 12, 2011, Zahid had a Master Calendar hearing in Seattle. At that time Judge Paul DeFonzo continued the hearing to Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at 1:00 pm. The document signed by the judge indicates that the April hearing will be a combination Master/Individual Hearing -- an unusual and contradictory combination, since a Master Calendar Hearing is normally a hearing to set a date for an expanded Individual Hearing.

In Immigration Court, unlike in regular civil courts, the rules of evidence do not apply and Zahid will only be allowed to present an insignificant amount of the information contained in more than 17,000 pages of evidence amassed in his defense.

Granting of Citizenship: There are three ways Zahid can succeed in getting citizenship: (1) through immigration court proceedings; (2) through the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, to which he and his wife Ann have appealed their case. (In order for this to happen, a Stay has to be granted in the deportation proceedings until the Ninth Circuit Court can hear the case); or (3) through the intervention of people in government who have the power to stop deportation and grant citizenship. If we can convince these individuals of the merits of Zahid's case, he will be able to receive his earned citizenship, stay home with his family, and get the medical care he needs and deserves.

Pro Bono Attorney Needed: If you know an attorney or are an attorney who might be interested in representing Zahid Chaudhry in April, contact him at the email address below.

To find out more about Zahid's case, the campaign to Keep Zahid Home, and how you can help, visit:
www.keepzahidhome.org
Search Facebook for "Keep Zahid Home"
http://www.americasvoiceonline.org/zahid
Or send a message to:
keepzahidhome@gmail.com

Concerns for adequate amount of food in China's future

Since 1997, China has lost 20.2 million acres of arable land to urbanization, industrialization, re-forestation and damage caused by natural disasters. China's per capita available land is 40 percent of the world average.

"The right to food requires people to have incomes that allow them to purchase food, and that food systems be sustainable enough that satisfying current demands does not jeopardize future needs."

With the "widening gap between rural and urban" and without countering events caused by climate change, agricultural productivity in China will drop by five to ten percent by 2030.

For the last seven years the nation recorded record grain harvests, and 95% grain self-sufficiency for the last ten.

China's risk to food security will reach dangerous heights if more than 10 percent of the food supply comes from imports.

Drought – often the result of large-scale dam building – continues to be a major threat to China's food security.

Germany knew where Eichmann was hiding

Formerly secret intelligence files reveal that West Germany was aware for at least eight years that Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann was hiding in Argentia before he was "kidnapped by Mossad agents and put on trial in Israel... German intelligence only told Washington about Eichmann's whereabouts in 1958... There is good reason to believe that Eichmann received help from German, Italian and Vatican officials."

German Bishop Alois Hudal in Rome provided passports for wanted Nazis. Franz Stangl, commandant of the Treblinka extermination camp, admitted that Hudal helped him get away after WW II.

A message from the organizers of the World Beyond Capitalism Conference

We would like to officially invite everyone to submit a proposal for a workshop or presentation at the Sixth Annual International A World Beyond Capitalism Conference, "Africa Needs Free Justice."

It is a mobile event [with stops in Seattle and Olympia] and intentional community created for the design, collaboration and implementation of multicultural, multimedia, social justice projects and groups. It is a training grounds and theory-meets-action camp for social justice organizers and those who desire to become social justice organizers.

For more information, go to:
www.africaneedsfreejustice.org

The recognizing of Palestine

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

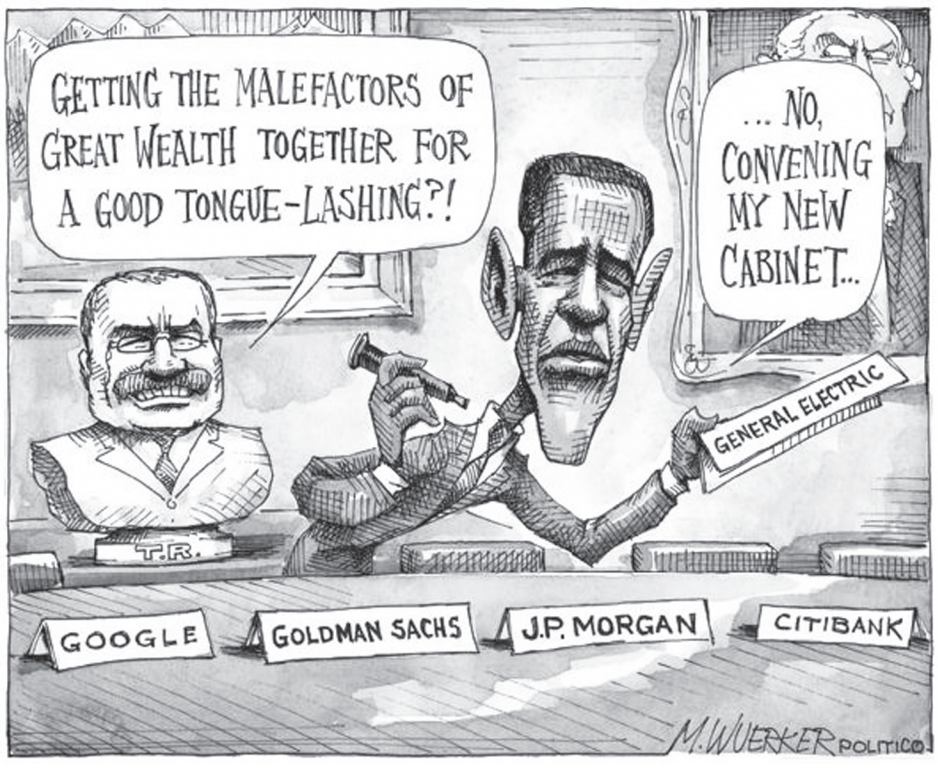
At the end of 2010, Brazil gave a long-awaited gift to the people of Palestine. On December 31, Brazil became the first country in the Western Hemisphere to host a Palestinian embassy, and—in doing so—developed formal diplomatic relations with the occupied nation. Further recognition from Latin American countries are also planned. Shortly after Brazil recognized a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, four other Latin American countries—Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia and Ecuador—did so, and are also likely to host embassies in the near future. In addition, it has been reported that Chile, Mexico, Peru and Nicaragua are too considering recognition. The Palestinian Authority has also begun lobbying Europe to upgrade their diplomatic status and relations.

On December 31, Brazil became the first country in the Western Hemisphere to host a Palestinian embassy, and–in doing so–developed formal diplomatic relations with the occupied nation.

As expected, Israel has been highly critical of such moves and has sought to foil them. It condemned the hosting of a Palestinian embassy in Brazil as "seriously harmful" to the peace process, and "premature"--preferring to keep all matters of Palestine between it (and the United States) and the Palestinians. The possibility that European nations may follow Latin America's leadership on the matter was considered "urgent." As reported in *Haaretz*, Israeli envoys were ordered by the acting director of the Foreign Ministry General Rafael Barak to begin an "immediate public relations campaign at the bureaus of the premiers, foreign ministers and parliament in each country" in order to "thwart Palestinian efforts (which)... would recognize a unilateral declaration of statehood." The fear from Israel is not just because of the symbolic effect that such upgradings in diplomatic ties might have. Rather, as General Rafael Barak explains in a memo obtained by *Haaretz*, the diplomatic effort by the Palestinian Authority is part of an overall campaign to win support for bringing a resolution before the United Nations Security Council to condemn the settlements in the West Bank and declare a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders.

Despite the frantic cries from the Israeli government, the recognition of Palestine by Latin American nations is far from "unilateral" "premature" or "seriously harmful" to peace. Since 1974, the United Nations General Assembly has consistently recognized Palestinians' right to self-determination. In its most recent resolution on the matter this included "respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem." The matter has had near unanimous approval—excluding of course Israel, the United States, and whatever small island countries they can muscle to their side. In 2002 the Security Council—including the United States—was willing to explicitly call for a two-state settlement with each state living "side by side within secure and recognized borders." The resolution opened by recalling Resolution 242, which called on Israel to let go of the territory it had illegally seized in 1967. With these resolutions in mind, it would appear that rather than acting unilaterally, the Latin American countries are acting in accordance with the international consensus and fulfilling their obligations under international law.

In addition, since 1988 Palestine has been declared an independent state. It was in that year that the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the de facto governing body of Palestine, agreed to accept a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as the capital. The 1988 Palestinian Declaration of Independence and its auxiliary documents are perhaps one of the most sincerest peace compromises in diplomatic history. In it, Palestinians were willing to acknowledge that "Despite the historical injustice to the Palestinian Arab people in (their) displacement and in being deprived of the right to self-determination following... (the partitioning of) Palestine into an Arab and Jewish State," they would still being willing to sacrifice the majority of historic Palestine if it meant living in peace. It was a gesture that even the United States was willing to admit was real. At the time, President Ronald Reagan acknowledged that the Palestinian Declaration of Independence meant that the PLO had accepted UN resolutions 242 and 338, had renounced terrorism, and had recognized Israel. In this context, the Latin American recognition for Palestine is anything but "premature." If anything, the recognition is over twenty years overdue.



Not only that, but Palestine has a much stronger case for state recognition than Israel itself. Within international law, there has been four criteria established for statehood: first, a state must have a permanent population; second, a state must have a government in effective control over a territory; third, the boundaries of that territory are declared and internationally recognized; and fourth, the state is able to enter into international agreements with other states. The third criteria presents the greatest problem for Israel. Unlike other nations, Israel has never claimed its borders.

The reason for lack of established borders is that the Zionists which established Israel understood the new nation to be an expansionist state. The original goal of political Zionism was to establish a "greater Israel"--a state which ran from the Nile to the Euphrates across northern Africa and much of the Middle East. However, when political reality prevented this dream from being actualized, the Zionist leadership was willing to accept the United Nations partition plan as its "irreducible minimum." During the war of 1948 though, this "irreducible minimum" quickly grew. On May 14, 1948—less than a year after the United Nations had agreed to partition the historic Palestine—Israel had taken control of 77% percent of the land, 20% more than what was allocated to them under the partition plan.

Initially, this brazen land grab by Zionists was quite controversial. When Israel originally applied for membership within the United Nations on December 2, 1948, its application was not universally supported. Philip C. Jessup, speaking on behalf of the United States, came to Israel's defense during the debates within the Security Council. He attempted to explain away the lack of Israeli borders by interpreting the requirement broadly:

"One does not find in the general classic treatment of this subject any insistence that the territory of a State must be exactly fixed by definite frontiers. We all know that, historically, many States have begun their existence with their frontiers unsettled. Let me take as one example, my own country, the United States of America... Historically, the concept is one of insistence that there must be some portion of the earth's surface which its people inhabit and over which its Government exercises authority. No one can deny that the State of Israel responds to this requirement."

When it comes to the peace process, the Palestinian leadership has consistently proposed doable actions in-line with international standards. Israel, on the other hand, makes vague requirements which exempt Israel from international law.

Jessup's comments are very revealing. The western frontier in the United States was anything but "unsettled." Throughout those lands was a thriving indigenous population with an entire civilization that was systematically destroyed to make way for European settlers. The comparison between the United States and Israel, both being nations of "unsettled" lands, is illustrative of Israel's inability to define its borders. Like the United State during western expansion, it does not want to possibly miss out on an opportunity to expand territory. In effect, Israel has tried to erase the existence of the Palestinians, like the United States has attempted to erase the existence of its native population, by claiming that territory beyond its control is not only "unsettled" but already Israel's. Using Jessup's logic, Nazi Germany could have found a rationale for its claim to jurisdiction over Eastern Europe. After all, Germany did exist on "some portion of the earth's surface" and Hitler did advocate a policy of "Dang nach Osten"--the conquest of "unsettled lands" in the east (which in Hitler's view included Poland). Partly because of this, Israel was originally denied membership into the United Nations. To this day Israel still has not met the basic requirement of state recognition by declaring its borders.

Also, in order to receive international recognition, states are generally expected to adhere to basic international norms. When it has come to the peace process, the Palestinian leadership—whether from Fatah or Hamas—has consistently proposed doable actions in-line with international standards. Israel, on the other hand, has demanded the opposite. It has continually made vague requirements that essentially create special Israeli exceptions to international law.

For example, take the modest demand of ending settlement expansion in the West Bank as a condition for negotiations. The condition is entirely reasonable. First, the settlements are considered illegal under international law. Their construction is not an issue of negotiation, with the implication of compromise, but one of legal obligation. There is nothing to discuss in regards to the matter except when and how they will be dismantled. Second, settlement construction inherently puts Palestinians in a weaker bargaining position. If the end goal is a Palestinian state then the assertion of sovereignty over territory is a must. It becomes near impossible to assert such sovereignty if vital resources in the area are monopolized by settlers who are extremely hostile to any claim of jurisdiction by the Palestinian Authority and whose loyalties are to a foreign power. Any peace plan established between those in the Knesset and the Palestinian Authority will have to be enforced. And,

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

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unless there is a tremendous amount of active goodwill from Israelis in supporting it, it is likely that the settlers will play their expected role of spoilers and saboteurs.

In stark contrast to what Palestinians ask of Israel, consider what Israel asks of the Palestinians. At the beginning of almost all peace talks Israel has insisted on state recognition by whatever Palestinian political party has power in the situation. Within the norms of international law the demand is complete gibberish; it has no meaning or significance. In international law the only institutions which have the authority to grant recognition to states is other states. The reason for this is obvious: non-state actors, such as political parties, private organizations, or social movements do not have the power to stamp passports, sign treaties, or join international bodies. Israel is perhaps the first country in the entire history of modern international relationships which has sought such recognition from non-state actors. Closely related to the demand for state recognition is the demand that the Palestinians recognize Israel's right to exist. Again, a term that is completely vacuous, and is almost entirely nonexistent within international law. States do not exist in the abstract, they exist over territory. Any claim to a blanket right to exist—without defining where such state should exist—is essentially imputing a state with mystical timeless qualities. Claiming such a right denies the fact that the state of Israel is a historical creation which is—and should be—bounded by geographical boundaries. Perhaps the most absurd notion though is that Palestinians must recognize Israel as a Jewish state. Again, this is a demand that has no precedent in international law. Recognition of the state of Saudi Arabia by, say Norway, does not mean that Norway is compelled to also recognize Saudi Arabia as an Islamic state where Wahhabi are entitled to special privileges. It only means that it accepts the territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi royal family as the country's governing body. Such recognition would not only mean a return to blood-ties and religious notions of statehood—a view that essentially sees citizenship has nothing more than membership in a blood tribe—but would also mean an end to many internationally acknowledged human rights. For Palestinians specifically, it would mean a forfeit of the right of return for refugees and an acquiescence to their position as second class citizens within Israel.

For decades there has been a long-standing consensus on how to end the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The only two outliers of this consensus has been Israel and the United States. In order to press a just peace upon these two nations two things need to occur. The first is a delegitimizing of the occupation. This is already well underway, both on the international and grassroots levels. Campaigns which boycott companies that either work in the settlements or help maintain the occupation help drive the point home, and raise the costs for committing international crimes. At present, the occupation has lost all legal or ethical standing, and a large section of the world's population have accepted the idea of a two state settlement based on the 1967 borders. The people of the United States are not excluded from this phenomenon.A Zogby poll done in 2009 found that 67% of Americans favored a two-state settlement which included the creation of an independent Palestinian state. Rather, much of the population in the United States is merely under the false assumption that somehow their leaders in the United States and Israel are working towards—rather than against—this prospect. Zogby polls show a similar margin of Americans feel that their sympathies in the conflict are with the Israelis, and that they see Palestinians as the spoilers. Goebbels would have trouble writing a reality which was more flipped.

A 2009 poll found that 67% of Americans favored a two-state settlement which included the creation of an independent Palestinian state. Many people are under the false assumption that somehow Israel is working towards–rather than against–this prospect.

The second part is legitimizing a Palestinian state, and more importantly, a functioning Palestinian civil society. Comparatively very little work has been done in this regard. Understandably so, this work is much harder to do. It involves the slow and difficult process of humanizing Palestinians among Americans and Israelis and taking necessary risks on their behalf. It is one thing to safely criticize a bully from a distance; it is another thing entirely to reach out towards the victims—risking not only the stigma from others, but the possible wrath of the bully.

The efforts by Brazil and other Latin American nations are a positive step, and should not only be duplicated, but coupled with grassroots efforts to build social and economic ties with Palestine. If such actions can continue, then a realistic and lasting peace will be possible; if not, then it is best to remember the words of Brazil's pacifist bishop Dom Helder Camara: "If there is some corner of the world which has remained peaceful, but with a peace based on injustice—the peace of a swamp with rotten matter at its depths—we may be sure that peace is false. Violence attracts violence."

Marco Rosaire Rossi is a graduate of the University for Peace in Costa Rica, a former resident of Olympia, and frequent contributor for Works In Progress.

Veterans For Peace

Greater Seattle Chapter 92
www.vfp92.org - info@vfp92.org

Expressing condolences to the Williams Family, supporting the J.T. Williams Organizing Committee, and calling for the criminal prosecution of Ian Birk

WHEREAS the late John T. Williams, a member of the Ditidaht people, a Canadian First Nation, was born and lived for many years in Seattle where he earned a living as an artist working in indigenous wood carving styles; and,

WHEREAS Mr. Williams was shot and killed in Seattle by Seattle police officer Ian Birk on August 30, 2010; and,

WHEREAS the King County Medical Examiner found that the late Mr. Williams was shot in the side four times; and,

WHEREAS police car dashboard video footage shows that the elapsed time between when Officer Birk first spoke to Mr. Williams and when he fired five shots at him was seven seconds or less; and,

WHEREAS Seattle Police Chief John Diaz and the Seattle Police Department Firearms Review Board reached a preliminary finding that Officer Birk's shooting of Mr. Williams was not justified and Officer Birk was therefore ordered to surrender his gun and badge; and,

WHEREAS only one member of the eight-member King County Inquest Jury found that Mr. Williams was given sufficient time to put down the folding knife he was carrying after an order from Officer Birk; and,

WHEREAS no members of the Inquest Jury found that the three-inch blade of Mr. Williams' knife was open when Officer Birk fired his weapon; and,

WHEREAS only one member of the Inquest Jury found that Mr. Williams posed an imminent threat of serious physical harm to Officer Birk at the time of the shooting; and,

WHEREAS the Williams family and members of the Native American and First Nations communities have asked for support in persuading King County Prosecuting Attorney Daniel T. Satterberg to file criminal charges against Officer Birk; and,

WHEREAS the marginalization of Native American and First Nations peoples, with often deadly results, is a legacy of the generally violent conquest of this continent, including the Puget Sound War of 1855-56; and,

WHEREAS in recent decades US law enforcement agencies and their interactions with the public have become increasingly militarized and warlike as a result of the "War on Drugs," the "Global War on Terrorism," and the overall militarization of American society; and,

WHEREAS one of the stated goals of Veterans For Peace is "To seek justice for veterans and victims of war"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that Veterans For Peace, Greater Seattle, Chapter 92 (VFP 92) assembled at its monthly general membership meeting on January 22, 2011, expresses its condolences to the Williams family; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that VFP 92 endorses the efforts of the J. T. Williams Organizing Committee; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that VFP 92 calls for the criminal prosecution by King County and federal prosecutors of Officer Birk for killing the late John T. Williams; and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED that the VFP 92 Secretary is requested to transmit copies of this resolution, at his earliest convenience and via first-class mail, to King County Prosecuting Attorney Daniel T. Satterberg and to the US Attorney for the Western District of Washington, Jenny A. Durkan.

Drafted and submitted by Michelle J. Kinnucan

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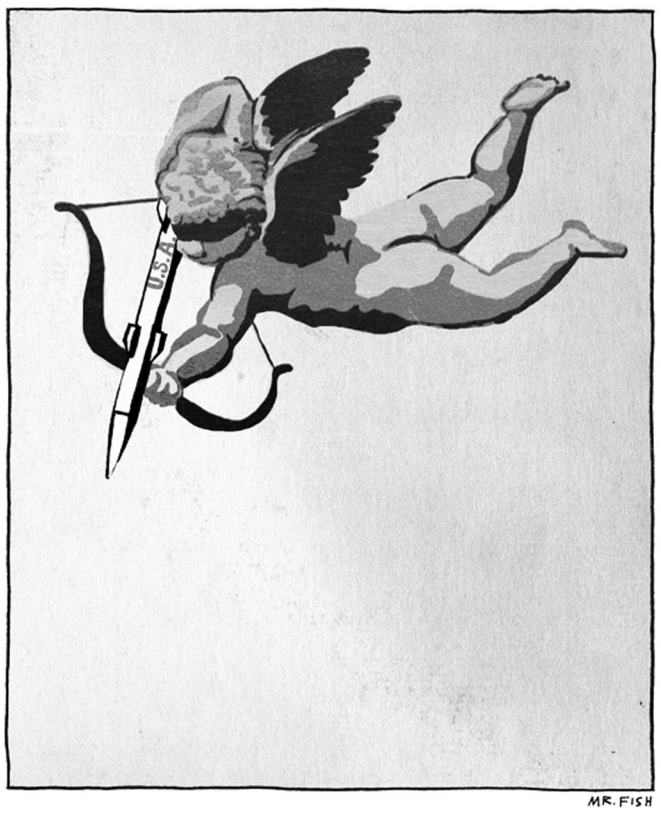


Confronting impunity

by Larry Ebersole

The alternatives to prolonged governmental impunity for human rights violations become the opening scene for Amnesty International's "Ten Against Torture" – a series of high-profile, insightful narratives addressed to President Obama. Ariel Dorfman (Chilean-American playwright) is one of the ten contributors.

Dorfman once depicted in his play, "Death and the Maiden," how a torture survivor (perhaps from the 9/11 of September 1973 in Chile, when the CIA installed General Pinochet), confronts her persecutor, a physician who assisted in her interrogation and torture.

Dorfman elaborates years later in his "Ten Against Torture" narrative to President Obama, "Amnesty International has demanded a thorough, impartial and adequately funded investigation of the truth of how this country came to torture, how it became an international pariah. And then, those words, 'Never Again,' require the prosecution of any and all those who ordered, condoned and engaged in these crimes against humanity."

Unfortunately, health care professionals who assist in torture and unlawful interrogations are not merely dramatic fiction. In a complaint filed on June 23, 2010, by a coalition of nine human rights, health care, and religious groups including Amnesty International, Physicians for Human Rights, and National Religious Campaign Against Torture, accountability is sought for the CIA's use of psychologists as partners for torture.

This complaint to the Office for Human Research Protections, a part of the U.S. Department of Health Services that monitors compliance of all federally funded research (including by the CIA), will initiate a necessary investigation. All research must uphold customary professional ethical standards and customary international legal standards based upon the Code of Nuremberg, the Convention Against Torture, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These combined standards are "the common rule" for research.

Specifically the nine groups assert that new forms of unlawful water-boarding were the products of the CIA's developing and field-testing an intentionally harmful practice: using systematic medical monitoring to increase pain and injury in a non-therapeutic environment, and the application of subsequent generalizable knowledge – resembling the results of an "experiment."

By claiming to be medical monitors while torture interrogation takes place, health professionals have served as "legal cover" for the torturers while participating in human rights violations.

Health professionals have allegedly assisted with developing methods for torture rather than practice the principle of "do no harm." According to the complaint by the nine organizations, health professionals have analyzed data based on their observations of 25 detainees to determine which type of application would increase the subject's susceptibility to severe pain.

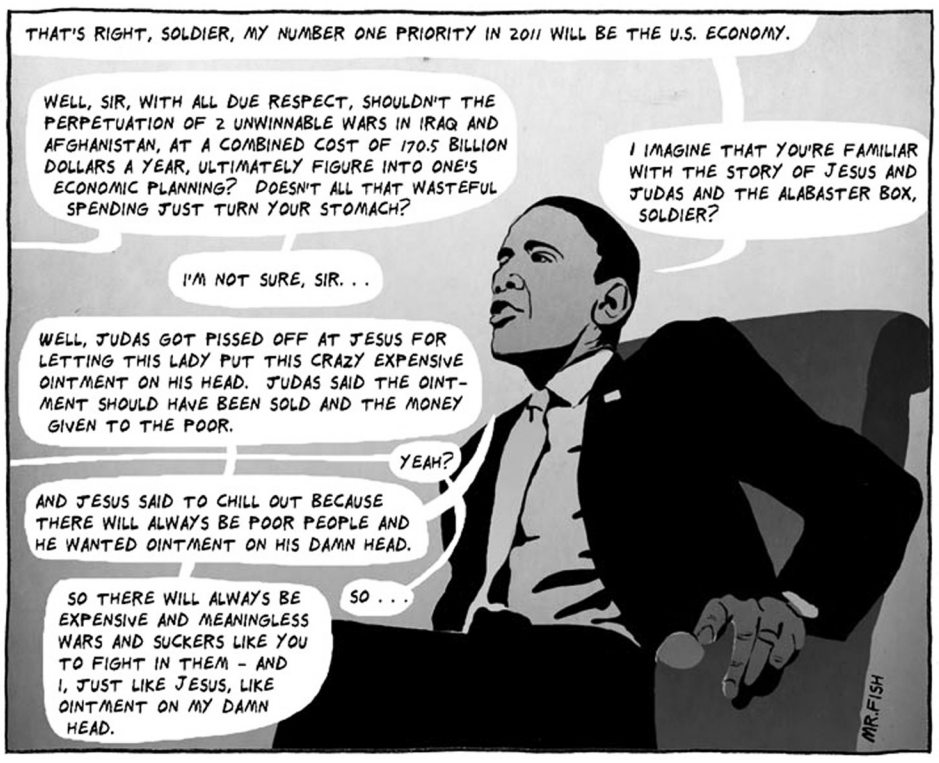
By claiming to be medical monitors while torture interrogation takes place, health professionals have served as "legal cover" for the torturers while participating in human rights violations. Such direct monitoring of torture and interrogations is outside the reach of humane, scientific practice and research.

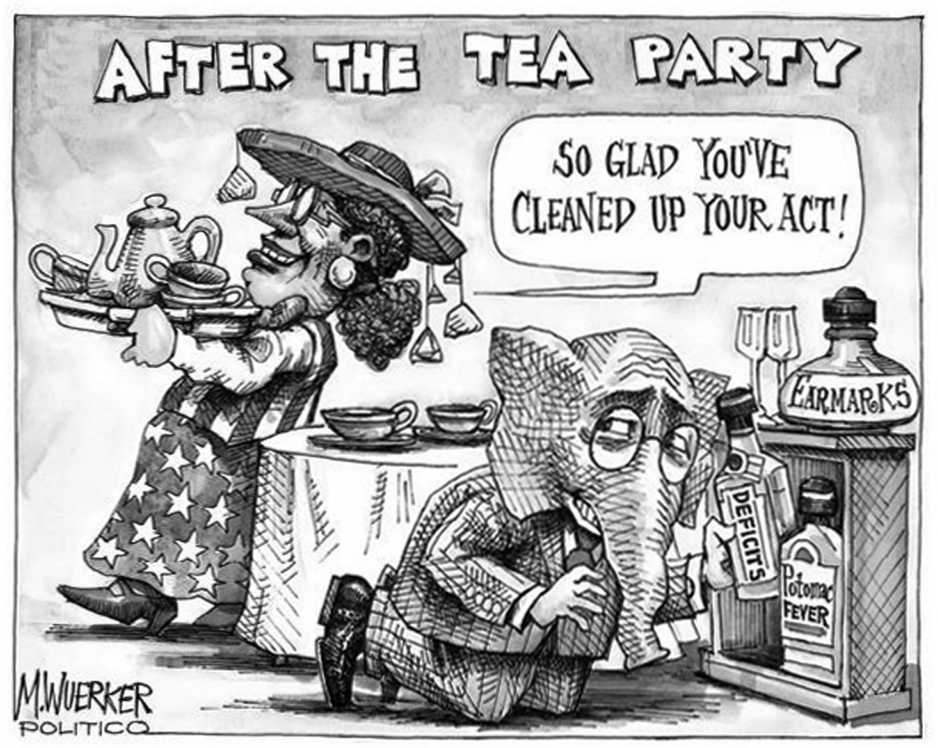
These disturbing practices by health professionals persist because of the broad reliance on impunity toward the wrong-doing of recent U.S. history, including the involvement of psychologists at Guantanamo. Impunity is maintained, as well, through the lack of fair trials in U.S. Federal Courts for the detainees; through continued practice of "shorter-duration extrajudicial renditions" -- CIA kidnappings to third nations that still use torture; and by not immediately investigating the CIA use of health professionals in torture and interrogations. (Unfortunately, the recent complaint by the nine organizations was referred to the CIA – to investigate the CIA's own alleged wrong-doing.) Impunity is maintained, as well, through the lack of needed transparency at proxy-Guantanamos (Bagram in Afghanistan, for instance), where fair trials are lacking for all 500 detainees.

Formal accountability becomes imperative to prevent future torture and indefinite detention. Consider how a ruthless U.S. President might hesitate, knowing that if torture and indefinite detentions are practiced, that President's Administration will face the judicial consequences.

Since citizen and resident resignation contribute to governmental impunity, six of us active with Amnesty International USA (in Seattle, WA), visited with the concerned staff of Congressman McDermott (D- Seattle), Senator Murray (D), and Senator Cantwell (D), during a nationwide week of lobby visits to hundreds of Congressional Districts. We reminded the staff that Amnesty International continues to seek an independent commission appointed by Congress or by the President, to investigate the depth of human rights violations (since 9/11/2001), and to move toward comprehensive justice with accountability, and suitable recovery treatment for the many people victimized.

Often a poem helps to focus empathy; here is a recent poem about impunity:


THAT'S RIGHT, SOLDIER, MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IN 2011 WILL BE THE U.S. ECONOMY.
WELL, SIR, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SHOULDN'T THE PERPETUATION OF 2 UNWINNABLE WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, AT A COMBINED COST OF 170.5 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR, ULTIMATELY FIGURE INTO ONE'S ECONOMIC PLANNING? DOESN'T ALL THAT WASTEFUL SPENDING JUST TURN YOUR STOMACH?
I IMAGINE THAT YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE STORY OF JESUS AND JUDAS AND THE ALABASTER BOX, SOLDIER?
I'M NOT SURE, SIR. . .
WELL, JUDAS GOT PISSED OFF AT JESUS FOR LETTING THIS LADY PUT THIS CRAZY EXPENSIVE OINTMENT ON HIS HEAD. JUDAS SAID THE OINTMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOLD AND THE MONEY GIVEN TO THE POOR.
YEAH?
AND JESUS SAID TO CHILL OUT BECAUSE THERE WILL ALWAYS BE POOR PEOPLE AND HE WANTED OINTMENT ON HIS DAMN HEAD.
SO . . .
SO THERE WILL ALWAYS BE EXPENSIVE AND MEANINGLESS WARS AND SUCKERS LIKE YOU TO FIGHT IN THEM – AND I, JUST LIKE JESUS, LIKE OINTMENT ON MY DAMN HEAD.
MR.FISH



Torture USA

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 5.

Torture
has big
USA stars,
hiding the scars,
I want investigations:
commissions of inquiry,
prolific as Shakespeare.
Why language of conscience,
shackled – raw?
Who gave orders
from above,
useless against humanity?
Why terror -
stood upon a lethal box
caped and hooded,
wired-electric, unlike
The Statue of Liberty -
bearing medical experiments:
Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo,
Bagram – third nation secret-sites.
Torture is seven letters
two syllables,
one word -
cruelty:
all comes falling down
crying out, like the sea
the sea, upon our regal shore.

–Laurence Ebersole

Larry Ebersole is the Amnesty International USA Area Coordinator in Washington State.

More low-income housing in Venezuela

Hugo Chavez called for increasing the amount of land seized in affluent east Caracas to accommodate low-income housing. The poor are presently living on unstable hillsides west of the city.

Cuba develops the first cancer vaccine

Cuba has registered in Peru what it claims is the world's first lung cancer vaccine, and is registering it in other South American countries.

According to *All Headline News*, "the vaccine, called CIMAVAX-EGF, was first registered in 2008 in Cuba, where it was developed 15 years ago. More than a thousand Cuban patients were successfully treated by the vaccine."

The vaccine has no side effects, and prevents cancer from returning.

The vaccine has also been registered in Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, Ecuador, and Argentina, and China is scheduled to run trials on the vaccine. Currently, the vaccine is also being tested on breast, prostate and uterus cancer.

Venezuela, Cuba outfox U.S. with fiber-optic cable

In February, Venezuela is connecting Cuba to the Internet through high-speed fiber-optic cable, countering US sanctions. Until now, Cuba has only been able to log on to the Internet through expensive satellite connections. A French ship is currently laying underwater cable, and is expected to reach Cuba by February 8.

US objects to Bolivia bid to legalize coca

In 2009, Bolivia filed a request with the United Nations to decriminalize the chewing of coca leaves. The Bolivian government claims its citizens use coca leaves for "medicinal and sacred purposes." Seven million people from Colombia to Argentina regularly chew cocoa leaves, a 4,000 year old custom. The leaves "combat altitude sickness, hunger and fatigue."

The U.N. was set to approve the request unless another nation were to object by January 30, 2011. The U.S. filed such an objection last month.

Cuba bumped from Human Development Index over missing data

Cuba has lodged a complaint that the U.N. Development Programme failed to include Cuba in its annual Human Development Index that ranks nations' quality of life. Cuba has long been recognized for its advancements in "education, health care, and life expectancy."

The Cuban government claimed its infant mortality rate is "5.2 per thousand and illiteracy has been eradicated."

The U.N. official said "Cuba was omitted from the 2010 HDI due to the absence of a current internationally reported figure for Cuba's Gross National Income adjusted for Purchasing Power Parity, normally provided by the World Bank and/or the International Monetary Fund.

Unofficial estimates of GNI-PPP, Orme said, were considered unreliable by the statisticians and economists at the Human Development Report Office, and the U.N. Statistical Commission has advised against the use of such imputed - as opposed to officially reported - figures as human development indicators for HDI calculation purposes.

According to the HD report, Cuba's life expectancy is 79 years, same as the U.S., with an average of 17.7 for "expected years of schooling," two more years than the US.

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WIP History

Every month, *WIP* reprints a relevant article from its 20 year history, or a new article on a historical topic. This month, we're reprinting this 1992 examination of the lies that got us into the *first* Gulf War, the revelations that came out afterward, and the long-term consequences of lying to the world.

Time for us to rethink the fog of the Gulf War

by David Price
September 1992

At times, the passage of a few years changes our perspective of political events. Today, the seemingly apparent success of the US / UN coalition in the Gulf War, and the high approval ratings this brought President Bush, have allowed most Americans to forget that before the first shots of the war were fired there was not a clear-cut majority of our country who supported military intervention. Once the war began, most Americans did support the troops in the Gulf – though the reasons for the support are less than clear. Many argue it had more to do with guilt over the behavior of war protesters two decades ago than it did with a gut-felt support for sending Americans overseas to die for the sovereign rights of Middle Eastern monarchs. Two years ago, the American debate over the war was framed with inappropriate analogies and metaphors. So little accurate information was made available to the public that few understood exactly what they were supporting.

Now, new information has become available that allows us to see this historical event in a different light. If the information we now know about Iraq and the war was available then, I doubt our Congress would have voted to declare war, and the American public could not have been whipped up into such an all-out frenzy.

Some of the vital information was not available to the public due to the so-called "fog of war," but much of it was made intentionally unavailable. It is my hope that some of our leaders and public will try and reconsider our current situation before starting another war which would punish Iraqi civilians more than Saddam Hussein, and create more instability in the Middle East. Let's not get involved in another war in the Gulf until we really understand what happened in the last one.

Consider the following:

On July 2, 1992, Sam Zakhem, the U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain during the Gulf War, was indicted by the Justice Department for accepting $7.7 million in bribes from Bahrain and Kuwait. The money is alleged to have been payments for Zakhem's extensive lobbying of the U.S. Congress and the American public (on "Nightline" and CNN) to support an American war against Iraq. In another era, Zakhem would have been tried for treason.

Our newspapers have been silent, but the press throughout the Arab world report that our military actions in the Gulf have fueled a resurgence of Islamic Fundamentalism throughout the Middle East.

The nameless Kuwaiti girl who tearfully testified before Congress that she witnessed Iraqi soldiers taking babies from hospital incubators has been thoroughly discredited. Amnesty International's investigation concluded the girl is actually a member of Kuwait's ruling Sabbah family and that her story was simply Kuwaiti propaganda designed to prod the American public into supporting a then unpopular foreign war.

Transcripts of April Glaspie's meetings with Iraqi dignitaries show Bush's diplomatic corps practically goading Saddam Hussein into attacking Kuwait. Though President Bush flat-out denied reports of these meetings in the months leading up to the war, post-war interviews with Glaspie show she was indeed sending Iraq signals indicating the U.S. would not stop an occupation of the disputed oil fields.

George Bush's promise of a war crimes trial for Saddam Hussein seems to be forgotten. Bush has much to lose from a public trial that would expose his administration's long-standing cozy relationship with Saddam Hussein. We now know that the Bush administration fought hard to fund Saddam Hussein's weapons program and that when Congress refused to allocate funds, a 1988 National Security Directive created a weapons program that flourished under the guise of agricultural funding.

In 1991, Atlanta banker Christopher Drogoul was convicted of laundering monies for illegal Iraqi arms deals. The U.S. Justice Department now admits that it dropped 287 charges pending against Drogoul in exchange for Drogoul's agreement not to testify against government officials.

At the war's close, the euphoria and hype surrounding the American technology of death had an unreal quality to it. Raytheon stock (momentarily) soared with the selectively released videos seemingly showing Patriot Missiles intercepting incoming Scuds. It was as if there really might be something to Reagan's money-wasting impossible dream of Star Wars defensive technology. But that was before the Fog of War lifted and people rationally examined what happened. The Pentagon now admits to intentionally inflating estimates of the size and strength of the Iraqi military. The "success" rates of Patriot missiles aimed against incoming Scud missiles have plummeted from an initially proclaimed 85% to around 15%, and the success rates of "smart bombs" has been shown to have been similarly inflated during wartime. The fact of the matter is that most of the killing (largely of civilians) was accomplished using technology and strategies not that different from World War II. Massive waves of "carpet" bombing hit urban Iraq, indiscriminately killing Corporal and child alike.

The after-effects of the war in the Middle East have been disastrous. American interests in the region are certainly in worse shape due to our military interference. Our newspapers have been silent, but the press throughout the Arab world report that our military actions in the Gulf have fueled a resurgence of Islamic Fundamentalism throughout the Middle East. A pro-democracy fundamentalist revolution is now underway in Algeria, while Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Jordan and Saudi Arabia have expanded internal military crackdowns against fundamentalists. The Algerian military canceled scheduled elections this year when it became abundantly clear Islamic fundamentalists would gain the majority of parliamentary seats. Bush's State Department shrugged its shoulders and remained silent while the old military regime arrested and tortured many of those who would have been popularly elected to power. Bush the wimp didn't even have the courage to write the coup's leaders a three word note saying "Shame on you." The truth is, Bush couldn't care less whether or not a country has democratically elected leaders, so long as there is an atmosphere of business as usual. The belief that post-Carter U.S. foreign policy has been anti-democratic is widespread throughout the Middle East. Egypt and Syria, our strongest allies during the Gulf War, have already publicly said they will not join a new U.N. / U.S. coalition against Iraq.

[WIP Note: Neither Egypt nor Syria were a part of the 2003 "Coalition of the willing."]

Egypt is so frightened of the fundamentalist movement that they have started rapidly back-pedaling on a number of their positions taken during the Gulf War. Muhammad Gawad, the chief of the *Middle East News Agency* of Cairo, suggested in an interview this past month that:

> *"Arab intellectuals have said that what Iraqi President Saddam Hussein did in Kuwait was right, but he did it in the wrong way. They say that if Saddam had not actually used force but had simply kept force as a threat, he would have got for himself and for the rest of the Arabs, and for the world a better thing."*

Make no mistake, the entire Arab World is busy re-examining what happened in the Gulf War, and most analysts are seeing little more than a U.S. effort to obliterate the strongest Arab power. At present there is clearly more distrust of the U.S. and its motives than there is mistrust directed toward Iraq. The Western show of force in the region has fed the Islamic fundamentalist movement more than any other, even in the last decade.

It would be a mistake to interpret this widespread movement as being more religious than political. Blaming this revolutionary movement on Islam would be like trying to explain this country's civil rights movement of the 1960s as being brought about by fundamentalist Christianity. Fundamentalist movements around the globe (whether it's Christian liberation theology, or Islamic fundamentalism) have drawn upon the humanitarian elements of their religion to try and bring their governmental systems around toward social justice. The lack of democracy throughout the Middle East (which the U.S. has certainly encouraged) has left most of the people with little hope for change outside of their religion. If President Bush wanted a just cause to fight for in the region he could certainly find it in promoting democracy, not in propping up the right to rule of unpopular monarchs.

Kuwait's royal family has, of course, reneged on its wartime promise of holding democratic elections after the war. The Sabah family has in fact taken steps to remove the few civil rights that previously existed for Kuwaiti citizens. President Bush has chosen to simply look the other way on this matter rather than to try and pressure this brutal monarchy into making a few basic steps toward democracy.

Israel has launched no less than a dozen new offensives in Lebanon since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, while George Bush seems to have forgotten his clenched teeth promises that he would "not let naked aggression stand." Perhaps the problem with the Israeli violations of human rights are that they're not "naked" enough; the Israelis love to cloak their violations of international law in the clothing of "national security." I doubt many Americans realize that 946 Palestinians (vs. 99 Israelis) have died in occupied lands since the beginning of the Intifadah. There are more UN resolutions condemning Israel than there are condemning Iraq, yet Bush chooses to increase the amount of aid to Israel rather than condemn their actions. Acre per acre, the Israelis have illegally occupied more land in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria than Iraq ever occupied in Kuwait. Where has Bush's sense of injustice been while the Israelis continuously slaughter civilians in occupied Lebanon?

It doesn't take a Skinnerian psychologist to understand Bush's recent suggestions that American military action against Iraq could reoccur in the next few months. It should be expected that a president who states that he will "do anything to get re-elected" will repeat whatever past actions earned him his highest public approval. As a patriotic American, it saddens me to watch my president so cynically abuse his power for the apparent purpose of maintaining office.

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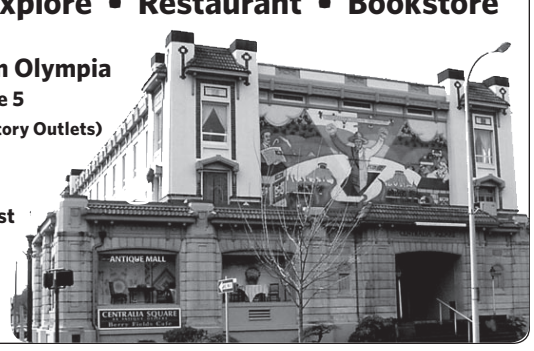

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▸ **POVERTY,** continued from page 1

often unstable jobs as quickly as possible, it is common for families to receive TANF even while they are working, or go on and off of TANF, as they get and lose jobs, always getting closer to their five year time-limit through no fault of their own.

The TANF grant is small, 40% of the Federal poverty level, $453 a month for a parent with one child, and has only increased by 3% in 17 years, despite inflation. Also on February 1, TANF will be decreased by 15%, leaving a parent and one child only $385 to meet their monthly expenses. Community resources are already depleted, so we're not sure what will happen to these families.

Members of POWER have met with the Governor's aides and with the director of DSHS with recommendations of how the budget savings can be achieved without hurting children. Our suggestions are:

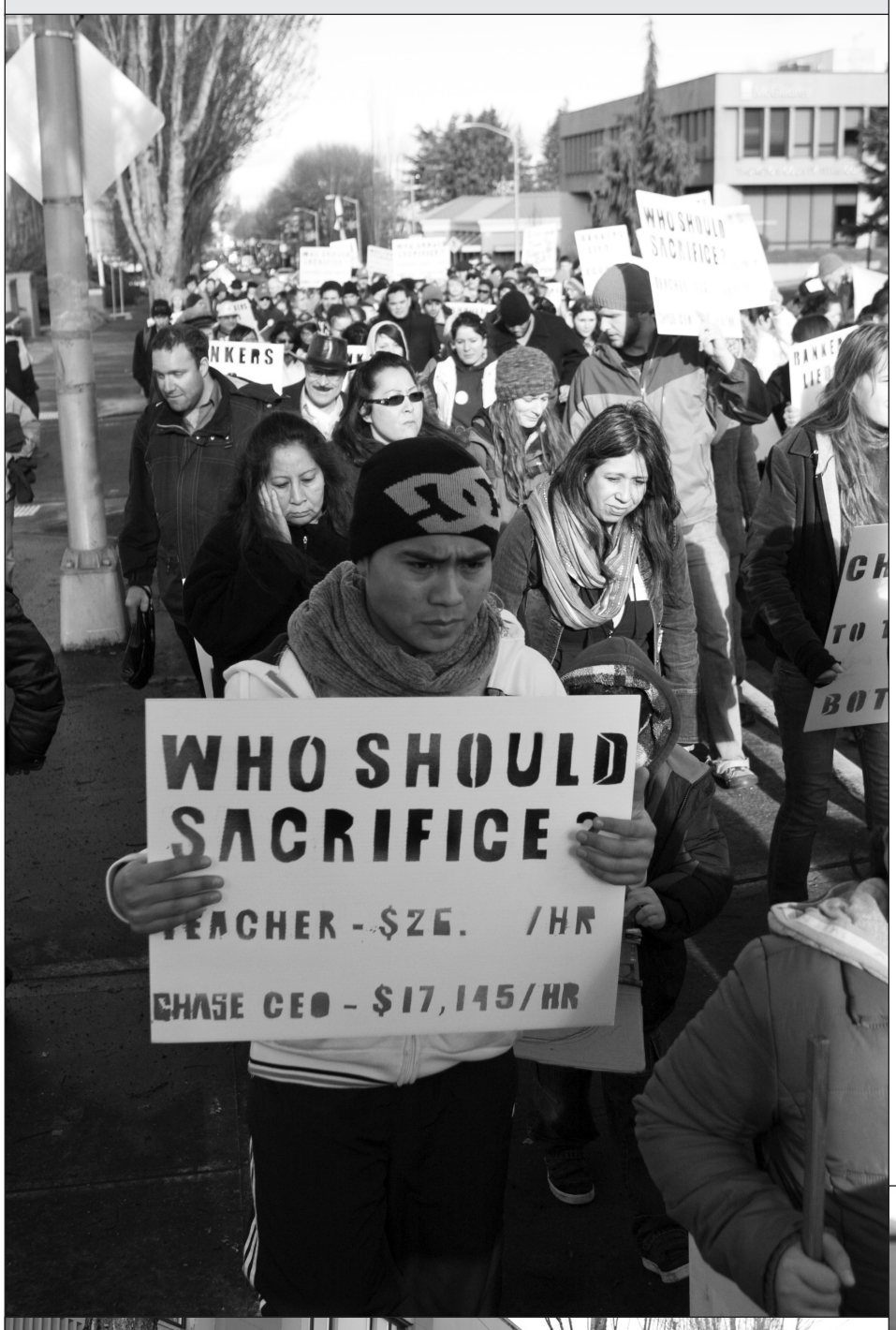
• Make the requirement to work outside the home voluntary and so parents can save the state millions of dollars in childcare subsidies by caring for their own children, and

• Hold TANF recipients and unemployment recipients to the same standards. TANF recipients must make 15 job contacts a week while those receiving unemployment benefits only have to make 3. This too would save the state millions in administrative costs.

It's up to all of us to let them know what kind of Washington we want to live in. Do we want a state where corporate profits are protected and assured while children, elders, and people with disabilities suffer and die? Or are we going to demand a quality of life here that will make Washington a better place to live for everyone?

Call the legislative hotline at 800.562.6000 and leave a message for your legislators, or better yet, call and make an appointment to meet with them. POWER will be on campus every Monday, so make your appointments for Monday afternoon. We would be happy to accompany you and show you around the campus. If you are being personally affected by these budget cuts and need more information about your rights or are willing to speak out, contact POWER at 360.352.9716, welfarerights@riseup.net, http://www.oly-wa.us/power/. Find us on Facebook and Myspace.

On January 17, the Olympia community honored Martin Luther King with a march for poor peoples' rights, demanding an end to budget cuts aimed at the poor. Photos by Ben Guss.



BIOMASS ACTION UPDATE

In Washington state and around the nation, biomass plants, which burn slash, whole trees and other wood material, are the rage. Claims have been made that biomass burning is carbon neutral (an old claim which we now know to be untrue), that there are enough forests to feed current and newly proposed plants (not proven and greatly in doubt), and that health concerns are not an issue (despite that the American Lung Association opposes biomass burning).

Using the precautionary principle, Thurston County Commissioners have passed a 12-month moratorium on biomass plants. The Commission wants to gather all the latest scientific information to make an informed decision. They are the first county in the nation willing to do this.

The Evergreen State College is hot to trot on their proposed biomass plant. Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark ran on a platform for biomass plants. He has been pushing them hard and heavy, and a great deal of misinformation is coming from these proponents. Right now the pro-biomass forces are doing a hard job of lobbying the Commissioners to rescind the moratorium.

The Commissioners need our thanks and our help. If you live in or near Olympia, please attend the Commissioners' meeting on February 7 (details below). If you live elsewhere or cannot attend the meeting, please write a letter.

We make this easy. Go to www.ccthurston.net, and click on the link to the Commissioners. There's also a sample letter to get you going. The Commissioners need our thanks for their courage and clear thinking in the midst of biomass mania. We need to urge them to hold strong and keep the moratorium in place.

This action alert is from Concerned Citizens of Thurston County.

WE NEED MORE TIME

Keep the 12 month moratorium on biomass facilities until we know the facts.

- **Who will pay the $13 million?**
- **What about airborne toxins?**
- **How many acres of wood per year will be burned?**
- **Why double CO_2 emissions?**
- **Why not solar and geothermal?**

PUBLIC HEARING IS FEBRUARY 7TH, 5:30 PM
THURSTON COUNTY COMPLEX, BLDG 1
2000 LAKERIDGE DRIVE SW

COME AND SPEAK UP
TO KEEP THE MORATORIUM IN PLACE

- **Who will pay the $13 Million for The Evergreen State College's Proposed Biomass Facility?**
  - We will, in government subsidies & grants while teachers lose their jobs & children lose their health care.
- **What about airborne particulate matter & CO_2?**
  - Who knows? Evergreen's Canadian contractor, Nexterra, will not furnish that information.
- **How many acres of wood per year will be burned?**
  - Again, who knows? With 29 proposed or operating biomass burning facilities on the map for Western Washington this must be addressed.
- **Why double CO_2 emissions & abet climate change?**
  - Burning biomass contributes to climate change - we need to reduce CO_2. Replacing natural gas with wood doubles CO_2 emissions.

Concerned Citizens of Thurston County - Information and sources found on www.ccthurston.net
The moratorium is endorsed by: Sierra Club, Thurston-Mason County Medical Society, and Cool Thurston County Campaign

VICS
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233 Division St NW

Study links prescription drugs with violent behavior

A study by the Institute of Safe Medication Practices revealed that 31 commonly-prescribed drugs "are disproportionately associated with cases of violence." Studying "reports of violence and aggression made to the FDA from 2004 to 2009," the most frequently named drug was Chantix, a smoking cessation medication, followed by antidepressants Prozac and Paxil, and thirdly, "drugs used to treat ADHD."

Marijuana bill proposed in State legislature

State Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson, D-Seattle is sponsoring a bill to legalize marijuana and sell it through state liquor stores. Dickerson said "I believe it's a smart way to raise badly needed revenue," both through state sales and through reducing law enforcement costs.

Dickerson estimates the state will earn $400 million annually in "sales and licensing fees."The revenue would be used for health care and substance abuse treatment. Dickerson states the bill contains "provisions for industrial hemp and allows the cultivation of cannabis for personal use."

Co-sponsors:
Roger Goodman, D-Kirkland;
Dave Upthegrove, D-Des Moines;
Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle;
Sherry Appleton, D-Poulsbo;
Mary Helen Roberts, D-Lynnwood;
Eileen Cody, D-West Seattle;
Luis Moscoso, D-Mountlake Terrace;
Deb Eddy, D-Kirkland;
Tami Green, D-Lakewood;
Jeannie Darneille, D-Tacoma;
and Joe Fitzgibbon, D-Burien.

Source: The Seattle Times

More, please.

More pages of progressive politics are better than fewer. More pages of social justice advocacy are better than fewer. More pages of local news and independent journalism are better than fewer.

***Works In Progress* monthly printing costs:**

8 pages	$337.18
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20 pages	$657.98

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* **Support our advertisers**, and tell them you saw their ad in *WIP*
* And as always, keep reading, and keep writing!

▸ **INVESTIGATION,** continued from page 1

managers at WSDOT assigned staff to create "media talking points" for the eventual release of video simulation. During the same period, WSDOT media relations employees developed public relations plans for release of the video simulation. Some time between October 18 and 23, the employees informed the Governor about the record request. During the same time period, WSDOT employees were busy briefing legislators about the request for the video simulation and its eventual release. On October 23, WSDOT Communications Director Lloyd Brown informed Secretary Hammond and senior management that KING-TV had requested a copy of the video record that day; the record was provided almost immediately to KING-TV and it aired on KING-TV just two days later, on October 25.

In response to media inquiries, Secretary Hammond stated, "We decided we were going to handle how it was released. We weren't going to leave it to Elizabeth Campbell." This statement demonstrated an intent to conceal the record and also demonstrated the concealment was done in bad faith—that is not for a legitimate reason permitted by the Public Records Act, but because it was convenient for employees who were concerned about the effect of the video simulation on the mayoral election.

The case is important because the Executive Ethics Board assigns personal responsibility to employees who have chosen to violate the Public Records Act (PRA) in bad faith. In comparison, a decision by a superior court on a PRA issue in favor of a requester results in an agency fine paid with tax dollars, and does not assign personal responsibility to those who made the decision to violate the Public Records Act.

For 25 years, only agencies could be held accountable for PRA violations. In the mid-'90s, the Legislature decided to

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

David Rovics
Danny Kelly

8pm

Autococoon
1985
Toland Wright

The Loft on Cherry St.
Cherry St. and Legion Ave.

$8-16 suggested donation

Honduras Human Rights Benefit

Sponsored by Media Island, 816 Adams St. SE, 360.352.8526, mediaisland@riseup.net

All ages show, must be 21 for beer garden. One of the last shows at the LOFT as it is soon to be closed forever! Want to table?

David Rovics at Evergreen
Wednesday, February 16th
FREE
Lecture Hall 5
2-4 pm

TWO SHOWS

David Rovics and Danny Kelly
Wednesday, February 16th
$8-16 suggested donation
The Cherry Loft
8pm - 1am

add an additional accountability provision that makes a PRA violation an ethical violation. The Legislature wants employees in decision-making positions to be accountable.

I simply think that the personal deterrent will be more effective than the agency deterrent in ensuring that the PRA is followed. Currently, most government entities consider a PRA fine a "cost of doing business" if and when they are even caught. The courts seem reluctant to levy fines that are of sufficient magnitude to register as "wake up calls" to organizational defendants, perhaps because, ultimately, it's the taxpayer footing the bill for the fine.

The Ethics Board has the authority to fine employees up to $5,000 each. In contrast to a PRA penalty that depletes the public coffer, an Ethics penalty enriches it because the individual employee pays her/his fine to the State, which, in turn, can use the money to fund general obligations, i.e., pay bills.

I want to provide higher-ups sufficient motivation not to pressure their employees to violate the law. No employee should have to find themselves in that kind of a "rock and a hard place" position, having to choose between satisfying their boss or violating the law. In this case, it appears to me that WSDOT executives wanted subordinate staff to conceal and withhold the video of the simulated earthquake destroying the Alaskan Way Viaduct, so executives at WSDOT would have time to carry out political and public relations actions to blunt the effect of making the video public.

This is a case to get the court to make the Ethics Board do its job. If the Ethics Board does its job, it will put all state executives on notice that they may be fined if they lean on lower-level employees to conceal records.

Alaskan Way video - Timeline of events

8/19/09	Primary Election for Seattle Mayor
8/19/09	WSDOT's Secretary Hammond and Governor's office employee Ron Judd exchange emails concerning incumbent Mayor Nickels' loss in the Top 2 primary, and the implications of Nickels' loss for "our tunnel." (A $900 million tunnel is the employees' preferred replacement for the Alaskan Way Viaduct.) The email includes a proposal to "pull together a discussion about messaging and other strategies for the tunnel over the next 2+ months." (2+ months refers to the time until the November election.) Secretary Hammond agrees to the discussion on messaging and strategies for use during the election period.
9/23/09	The citizen request is made for the record of the video simulation of the destruction of the Alaskan Way Viaduct.
9/28/09	A WSDOT letter acknowledges the request and informs the requester that WSDOT employees will take 30 days to provide the record.
9/23 to 10/16	At least one member of WSDOT senior management directs staff to prepare media "talking points."
10/16/09	A "Working draft - Not for public release" version of media talking points are produced.
9/23 to 10/23	WSDOT media relations employees develop plans to release the video record to the media.
9/23 to 10/18	Employee(s) inform the Governor's office of the disclosure request for the video.
10/18 to 10/25	Employees contact legislators to inform them of the impending release of the video.
10/23/09	Communications Director Lloyd Brown informs Secretary Hammond and senior management that KING-TV had requested a copy of the video that day.
10/23 to 10/25	Employee(s) provide the video to KING-TV for airing on 10/25/09
10/25/09	Employee(s) post a copy of the video to WSDOT blog adn YouTube.
After 10/25/09	The video is finally provided to the citizen requester.

The Alaskan Way Viaduct, and the '09 Seattle mayoral race

from WIP News Service

The Alaskan Way Viaduct has been a hot topic in Seattle politics for many years. Structurally, it's very similar to the double-decker viaduct which pancaked during the San Francisco earthquake in 1989. In fact, the Alaskan Way Viaduct was damaged during the 2001 Nisqually quake, and ongoing WSDOT inspections have shown continuing settlement damage.

While everyone wants the current viaduct retired, the controversy lies in how to replace it. Some have proposed replacing it with another above-ground roadway compliant with updated seismic standards. Others have proposed a $4 billion tunnel project. And others suggest replacing it with nothing, and using surface street and public transit improvements to handle the traffic.

The Alaskan Way Viaduct was one of many topics of interest during the 2009 Seattle mayoral race between business executive Joe Mallahan and local activist Mike McGinn. The incumbent Mayor Nickels, who supported the tunnel option, came in third in the "Top 2" primary.

Mallahan, a vice president at T-Mobile, supported the proposed deep-bored tunnel replacement that was the approved option by local and state officials. This option would cost $4.2 billion, with Seattle responsible for at least $927 million of that. Mallahan received most of his endorsements "from the business community, from labor unions, and from elected officials," including Governor Gregoire. In her endorsement, she stated, "... the mayor must be someone with proven experience and a willingness to work closely with Seattle's diverse citizens, businesses, unions and state and local elected officials. The candidate in this race who has those qualifications is Joe Mallahan."

McGinn, an attorney active in the Sierra Club, supported the surface street option, at a significantly lesser cost than the tunnel option. McGinn called the tunnel proposal "a huge waste of money that's completely indefensible," and has expressed concern that the construction will likely go over budget, and that residents of Seattle will be required to foot the bill. Overall, McGinn is a proponent of transportation options involving fewer cars and expansion of public transit.

On October 20, Mallahan led the KING-TV tracking poll by 7 percentage points (43%) over McGinn (36%), with one in five Seattle voters still undecided. However, two weeks later, Mike McGinn narrowly won the election. But before Election Day, the City Council and outgoing Mayor Nickels approved the tunnel option anyway.

During the election race, the Washington State Department of Transportation deliberately withheld a video simulation of the destruction of the Alaskan Way Viaduct bridge during an earthquake. The WSDOT has had a clear stake in the Viaduct controversy, and thus in the Seattle Mayoral race. The DOT has long pushed for the tunnel option. When McGinn expressed concern that the project would go over the $4 billion budget, WSDOT Secretary Paula Hammond said "I can't stand it when politicians make things up in order to win an election."

In internal emails, Ron Judd, who was senior advisor to Governor Gregoire (and now works for the Transportation Department), referred to the project as "our tunnel." He went on to stress that "It will not be helpful if this election turns out to be a referendum on the tunnel. So we need to work on ensuring as much as possible that does not happen."

acupuncture is pretty cool.

http://2kensmith.blogspot.com/
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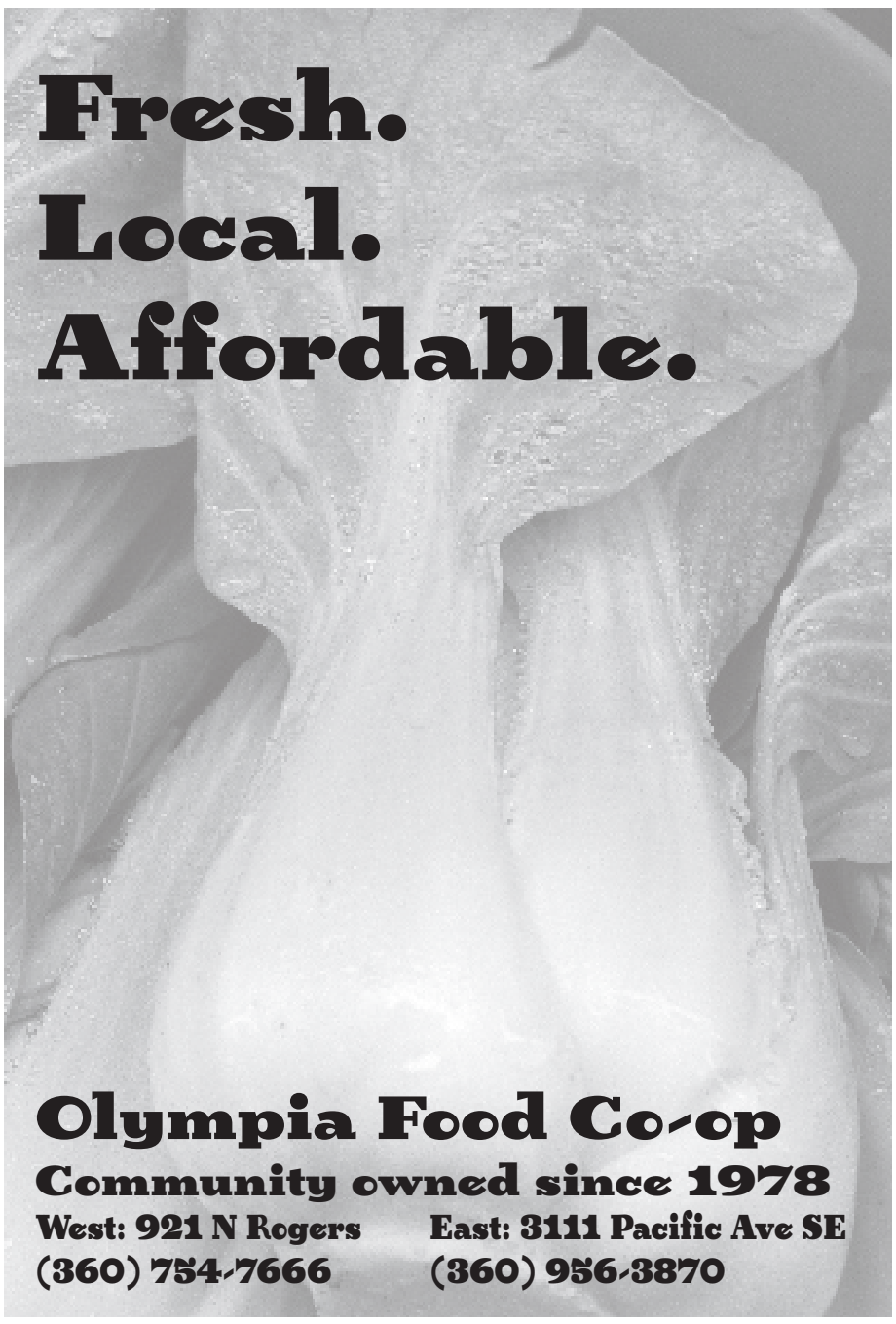
ken smith, l.ac.



Adam Keller's Crazy Country

by Adam Keller

Adam Keller is a long-time Israeli peace activist and the spokesperson for Gush Shalom, an organization that calls for a Palestinina state with pre-1967 borders. What follows are excerpts from his blog "Crazy Country." You can follow his blog at adam-keller2.blogspot.com.

To err is human

Jan 11, 2011

On the first day of the new year, January 1, Bil'in resident Jawaher Abu Rahmah died after having inhaled large quantities of tear gas during a demonstration against the Separation Fence on the day before. The army initially expressed regret and said the soldiers did not mean to kill her, and then the army discovered that the Palestinians and the Israeli leftists had been lying and she had not been there, and then the army discovered that they might have made a mistake about that, too, and that after all she might indeed have died from the gas she breathed. And then the issue dropped from the headlines to the great relief of the IDF spokesman who is soon due to be replaced anyway.

On the second day of the year, Mahmoud Muhammed Dharaghma from the town of Tubas made a fatal error and walked near an army checkpoint in the Jordan Valley while holding a bottle of mineral water in his hand. The soldiers thought it was a petrol bomb, and they had been given orders not to take chances and to shoot first and ask questions later. And just in case they shot him eight times. And then there was nobody anymore of whom to ask questions. What can we do? Mistakes happen in life, only those who do not act make no mistakes.

And also on the same day died the Gazan student Anas Salah who was critically ill and who wanted to get to the Mukassad Hospital in East Jerusalem for a treatment not available in Gaza and who waited many hours at a checkpoint on the Gaza border and eventually reached the Next World instead of the hospital. And this too was an unfortunate mistake, but after all he was already very ill and might have died also in the hospital and then there would have been no accusation leveled at the state of Israel and its armed forces.

A few days passed and on the morning of Friday, January 7, a military force arrived in the Hebron region to detain members of Hamas whom the state of Israel very much wanted to host in its prisons, and the force was fairly accurately briefed and only a small mistake was made when soldiers were told that the wanted man was on the second floor when in fact the he was on the ground floor. And the soldiers went to the second floor and broke open the bedroom door and saw a figure straightening up from the bed and as we know the policy is not to take chances and to shoot first and ask questions afterwards and the soldiers fired several shots on Amr Qawasme, before he could completely wake up and there remained nobody of whom to ask questions, there only remained a bloodstained bed in the bedroom of the Qawasme Family. And this certainly was a regrettable mistake and General Avi Mizrahi of the IDF Central Command even ordered an investigation into the circumstances of the case and perhaps by mistake some results would even be published once upon a time.

A little over seventeen years ago the State of Israel signed the Oslo Agreement. According to that agreement's timetable, the occupation should have ended in May 1999 and by now the State of Palestine should be nearing its twelfth Independence Day.

And later in the evening of that day the army received a warning that dangerous terrorists were gathering at the border of the Gaza Strip and immediately a detachment of soldiers was sent there and the sophisticated new computerized targeting system was activated, where you just need to feed in the coordinates of the target and the computer would direct deadly mortar fire to precisely the right spot. And it just happened that the sophisticated computer system made a slight error and the mortar shell flew just off the intended target and Sergeant Nadav Rotenberg was killed by the friendly fire of the army which he had joined with a very high motivation. A mistake, certainly a tragic mistake. Even a sophisticated computerized system may occasionally make mistakes.

A little over seventeen years ago the State of Israel signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization an agreement under U.S. government auspices called the Oslo Agreement. According to that agreement's timetable, the occupation should have ended in May 1999 and by now the State of Palestine should have been nearing its twelfth Independence Day and Israeli soldiers would not have been firing tear gas in Bil'in or standing at checkpoints in the Jordan Valley or controlling the access of patients to the Mukassad Hospital in East Jerusalem or detaining wanted people near Hebron or conducting shooting incidents on the Gaza Strip border. Had this agreement been implemented at the specified time, it is likely that Jawaher Abu Rahmah and Mahmoud Muhammed Dharaghma and Anas Chalach and Amr Qawasme and Nadav Rotenberg would all still be among the living today, as would several thousand others, Palestinians and Israelis.

But the State of Israel has made a big mistake - did not implement the agreement and did not end the occupation and instead did build settlements and roads and fences and walls and hatred. A very great deal of hatred was sown and stored up.

As *Works In Progress* went to print, the street protests in Egypt against the Hosni Mubarak government continue to escalate. In the last few days, Mubarak has fired his cabinet, cut off Internet and SMS (text messaging) access to the country, and has deployed the military to quell the protests. Mubarak has authorized the military to shoot to kill.

The Egypt protests come on the heels of similar protests in Tunisia, which successfully ousted their corrupt Prime Minister.

On Saturday, Jan. 29, locals gathered in Westlake Park in Seattle to express solidarity with the mass-uprising in Egypt.

Photos by Berd Whitlock.

Mexico's tourist industry is in freefall

Over 30 thousand people have been killed since Mexican President Felipe Calderon ordered a crackdown on the nation's drug cartels in December 2006. Over 12,000 were murdered in an 11-month period in 2010.

On January 8, three battling Mexican drug cartels murdered 21 young men in Acapulco. Fifteen were found outside a shopping center, 14 of them decapitated. Six were inside a taxi.

On Jan. 18, on the outskirts of Monterrey, five mutilated bodies were found with their arms and legs chopped off.

U.S. and Canadian tourism has fallen by 50 percent in the past year.

Only weeks weeks earlier 18 Mexican tourists vacationing in Acapulco were discovered in a mass grave.

Sources: All Headline News, Reuters

Obama's ICE accelerating deportations

During the past two years of the Obama administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has greatly accelerated deportations. The numbers of people deported from the US has risen from 165,000 in fiscal year 2002 to 392,000 in fiscal year 2010—nearly 1,100 each day—with the overwhelming majority being workers with no criminal record. Many of the deportees have U.S. citizen spouses or children; roughly 4 million U.S. citizen children are at risk of losing a parent to deportation.

Increasingly, ICE is turning to local law enforcement to help identify immigrants for deportation, including through the "Secure Communities" program which is meant to help local police departments get dangerous criminals off the streets. "Yet here in Illinois, 78% of the immigrants whom ICE is arresting through this program are classified by ICE itself as 'non-criminals.' Local taxpayer dollars are being wasted deporting gardeners and nannies and destroying families."

-Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

US Border Patrol used in wrongful death

In El Paso, Texas, a Mexican family filed a federal lawsuit in January accusing the U.S. Border Patrol in the "wrongful death and civil rights violations" of Sergio Adrian Hernandez Guereca, 15-year-old teenager, last June. The Border Patrol claimed he was among a group on the Mexican side of the border who were throwing rocks. According to the Associated Press, "agents are generally permitted to use lethal force against rock throwers."

Billion-dollar Boeing fence on U.S.-Mexico Border cancelled

Homeland Security canceled Boeing's contract to build a virtual fence on the U.S./Mexico border.

DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano says that the government will now use existing technology, including mobile surveillance systems, unmanned aircraft systems, thermal imaging devices and tower-based remote video surveillance systems. All told, she expects DHS to spend less than 750 million dollars to cover the remaining 517 kilometers of the Arizona border. Over a four-year period, and at the cost of one billion dollars, Boeing installed 400 unattended ground sensors, 15 sensor towers and 13 communications towers along an 85-kilometer stretch of the border in the areas of Ajo and Tucson.

"SBInet has had continued and repeated technical problems, cost overruns and schedule delays, raising serious questions about the system's ability to meet the needs for technology along the border."

Yet at the end of the day, many experts note that much of the debate over border fences – physical and virtual – are really more about political perceptions of being tough on immigration rather than actual barriers to undocumented workers. By Immigration and Customs Enforcement's own estimates, half the country's undocumented workers enter the United States legally with temporary visas that they then overstay.

Source: IPS

Book review

Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America

by E. Schmidt

I just read something interesting from the the folks at the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP), USA. It's called "Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America (Draft Proposal)."

What got my interest was this comment on Patriot Action Network: "I have not read the whole thing yet I have just been able to read the first few pages, but what I have seen is disturbing at the least." [sic] So of course I latched onto a copy.

From the Preamble: "The New Socialist Republic in North America could only have been brought into being as a result of heroic, self-sacrificing struggle carried out by millions and millions of people who had been forced to live under a system of exploitation and oppression in the former United States of America; who could no longer tolerate the continual outrages and injustices perpetrated by the system of capitalism-imperialism and the structures and institutions of power and repression which enforced all this with violence and brutality as well as lies and deception; who refused to any longer accept that this was the best possible society and world, and were increasingly aware of and inspired by the possibility of a radically different and better society and world; and who therefore rose up, with the leadership of the Revolutionary Communist Party, to defeat, abolish and dismantle the imperialist system in the former USA and its institutions and apparatus of repression and violence."

Jimminy. About time someone said what they think. The general thrust is that this is a draft proposal, looking towards the future. It lays out their picture of what a true socialist society might look like. The idea being that Obama is not a socialist, but these guys are.

The preamble goes on to lay out in detailed yet plain language that for a long time now, as we advanced through feudalism and into capitalism, all states have had a class character and a ruling class. And any democracy under this rule is on the dictatorial terms of this ruling class, as they have the money, land, factories, resources, TV stations, police, military, etc. And that to survive, humanity must rise up and replace capitalism under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie with socialism under the dictatorship of the proletariat. That will allow us to set the conditions required to abolish exploitation, classes, dictatorship, and the state. Which will get us to the next stage of human development, communism.

The general thrust is that this is a draft proposal, looking towards the future. It lays out their picture of what a true socialist society might look like.

So, how does this constitution stack up against our beloved founding father's Constitution of the United States? Well, they seem to share some basic human rights. But not really. For example, the US constitution still does not state that women have equal rights, where this socialist constitution does in detail. Also, the US constitution is much shorter, and history shows it did not cover a lot of things, apparently leaving them to the invisible hand of the market. For example, it actually had to be amended to state that people were not private property, and so slavery was not allowed! As writers such as Zinn and Chomsky have showed, the real purpose of the US constitution was to set the economic framework for the modern capitalist dictatorship of the bourgeoisie (which replaced the dictatorship of the feudal king and aristocracy).

Some details in the Socialist constitution: The environment is addressed in a big way, under its own specific heading. Same with the right to education. Only 30% of candidates for election are nominated by the ruling communist party. Under the US constitution, nearly 100% of candidates are put forward by the ruling democrat/republican capitalist party. Freedom of speech is a right, including opposition to the Socialist constitution and government. And the press is freed from the control of the advertisers. Freedom of religion is a right, but the state will promote atheism "...and engage in lively debate with advocates of religious and other viewpoints." The death penalty is outlawed. Torture also. For any person, anywhere. The conditions under which rights can be suspended (martial law) are defined and limited, where the US constitution is vague and open. And the law against torture is one thing that may never be suspended under any circumstances. The economy will be socialist, and the means of production will not be in private hands. What happened to indigenous and enslaved peoples is addressed, as well as many other things.

In general this constitution is not a copy of the original Soviet or Chinese constitutions, but builds on both the failures and achievements of the past to show the way forward.

So far discussion of this book by the left ranges from "This is dumb, we can't establish the details of a new socialist society until it actually happens," to "This is great, it shows what it might actually look like." Anarchists say that dictatorship of the proletariat will want to preserve itself forever. Authoritarians say "Constitution? We don't need no stinking constitution!" Religious progressives don't want the state in the atheism business. And social democrats want to keep trying to save capitalism from itself.

Myself, I think this is a unique document and essential reading, especially in view of current events. As a Marxist I'm biased, but watching the RCP over the years I have come to respect them for not being afraid to spell out their line, put forward their leaders, and act as a vanguard. And in recent years they have provided the best analysis I have seen so far of what happened in the 20th century, and what the path forward for humanity is. And this book is a piece of that.

You can go to www.revcom.us and read it on line for free, or order it from there for $8. You can also order it at Borders or on Amazon, etc.

Mr. Schmidt lives in Washington State and is involved in anti-imperialist research and activism to free political prisoners.

"Constitution for the New Socialist Republic in North America (Draft Proposal)" is published by RCP Publications in Chicago, Illinois. www.revcom.us

Anti-war and international solidarity activists denounce FBI infiltration

Press release from Committee to Stop FBI Repression

The anti-war and international solidarity activists who are being called before a grand jury in Chicago have learned that, beginning a few months before the protests against the Republican National Convention in the 2008 in St. Paul, Minnesota, a law enforcement officer infiltrated the Twin Cities Anti-War Committee (AWC). The infiltrator went by the name Karen Sullivan, joined the AWC in April 2008, and about a year later she joined the Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

Misty Rowan, of the Anti-War Committee, said, "The AWC played an important role in organizing the permitted march on the Republican National Convention on September 1, 2008, and also organized a rally and march on the fourth day of the convention. We can only assume that this First Amendment protected organizing was the reason that this agent, Karen Sullivan, infiltrated the AWC. It is the same kind of infiltration criticized in the September 2010 Inspector General report and highlighted in the recent release of documents from the Richmond, Virginia, police, where any sort of assembly is defined as a disturbance and a threat."

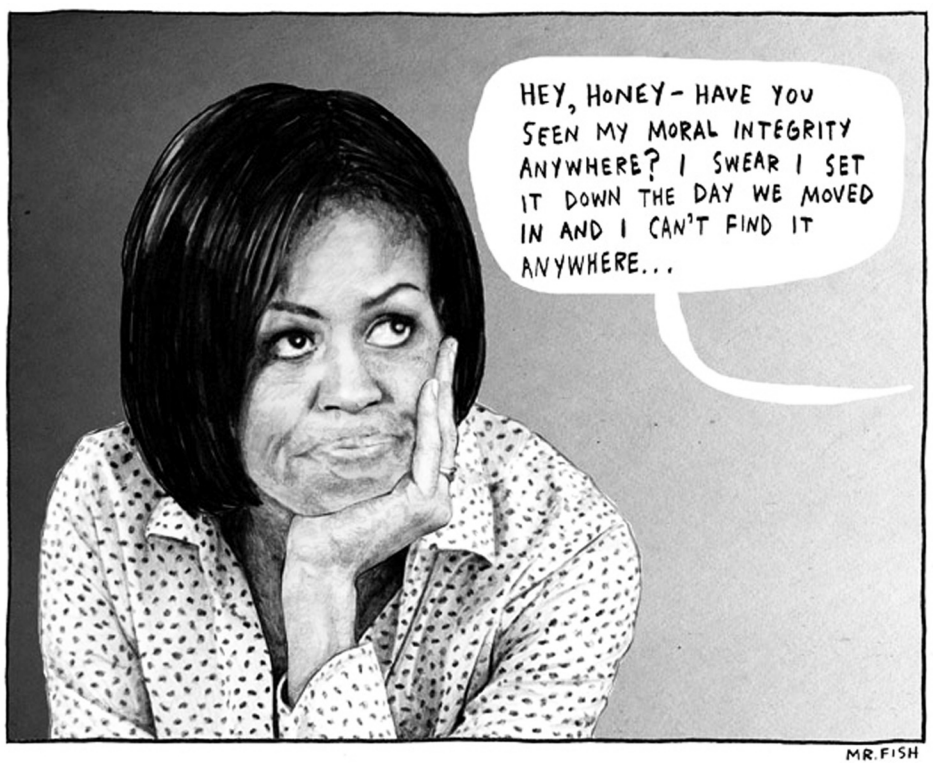
Jess Sundin, of the Anti-War Committee, said: "This professional liar posed as a fellow activist for two and a half years, and acted as if she was our friend. She spent time around my child, and even attended a small BBQ to celebrate my release from the hospital after I survived a near-fatal brain hemorrhage in April of last year. This event had no investigative value. By attending personal events like this, she showed how unprincipled she was."

In the summer of 2009, the agent signed up to go on a solidarity trip to Palestine. Three members of the delegation were denied entry at the Tel Aviv airport and eventually sent back to the U.S., Sarah Martin, Katrina Plotz and the agent. We have now learned that on the word of this agent, these political activists were prevented from witnessing first-hand what is paid for with U.S. tax dollars in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

In conversations between our attorneys and the prosecutor's office in Chicago, we have had confirmation that Karen Sullivan was in fact a law enforcement officer working undercover.

It now appears that the investigation of the U.S. Attorney is focused on small donations to the daycare and women's center projects of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, an NGO registered with the Palestinian Authority with local offices in towns across the the West Bank and Gaza. The Union is a progressive women's organization that strives to build respect for women's rights.

Steff Yorek, of Freedom Road Socialist Organization said, "We are appalled that we were infiltrated by police agents, targeted for our political organizing and views. This violates our rights to freedom of association and speech."


HEY, HONEY- HAVE YOU SEEN MY MORAL INTEGRITY ANYWHERE? I SWEAR I SET IT DOWN THE DAY WE MOVED IN AND I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE...
MR. FISH

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WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to
olywip@gmail.com or
Works In Progress
PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Traditions Café & World Folk Art Events

300 5th Avenue SW, Olympia

Oly Songwriter Circle
Tuesday, February 1 -- 7:00 PM
Student/low income

Gaelica
Friday, February 4, 8:00 PM
Gaelica is a fusion of Celtic, Appalachian and American Folk music with a distinctly progressive approach. Gaelica weaves rich vocal harmonies with diverse instrumentation, including guitar, scottish cittern, cello, and oboe.
Tickets: $12 Student/low income: $8

Cesaerean Support Group
Sunday, February 6 , 7:00 PM

Jazz Jam
Sunday, February 6, 2:30 PM
The Jazz community of the South Sound will hold a jazz jam in our cafe on the 1st Sunday of the month from 2:30 to 5pm. Free to all.

South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign
Tuesday, February 8, 7:00 PM
This community group formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and has focused on getting public institutions to adopt sweatshop-free purchasing practices. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more info. go to www.southsoundcleanclothes.org

NOW Meeting
Tuesday, February 8
7:00 PM, Student/low income

Earth Care
Wednesday, February 9, 7:00 PM
Video and discussion. Tonight's film is "Hidden Dangers in Kid's Meals: Genetically Engineered Foods"

Back Porch Swing
Saturday, February 12, 8:00 PM
Back Porch Swing is back with great new songs and tunes. Their concerts are full of songs, swing, Irish, French and French-Canadian tunes, original compositions, fine vocal harmonies and lots of fun.
Tickets: $12 Student/low income: $8

Open Shape Note singing
Sunday, February 13, 5:00 PM
Open to all who would like to sing in the shape note traditions

Music by the Straw Hat String Band
Sunday, February 13, 2:00 PM
The 2nd Sunday of each month we have some free acoustic music in the cafe. The Straw Hat String Band is a fervent acoustic traditional band that does interpretations of many folk genres - Contradance, Irish, Old Timey, Québécois, Métis, American Roots, Blues, Rock, Jazz, and Latin.

Jung Society
Sunday, February 13, 7:00 PM

Call to Action
Monday, February 14, 7:00 PM

Poetry night
Wednesday, February 16, 6:30 PM
Featured poet and open mic. Sponsored by the Olympia Poetry Network. Visit the website.

Plants and Planets
Thursday, February 17, 6:30 PM
Student/low income

Jim Malcolm
Friday, February 18, 8:00 PM
Award-winning Scottish folk performer Jim Malcolm has garnered many fans in Olympia. He returns from across the waters with his infectious humor, his fine songwriting and singing, and his deft guitar playing. He routinely gets reviews such as these: "Quietly, unforcefully and undeniably stunning" - Mojo or "A master of well chosen words and melodic inventiveness." – Rock 'n' Reel
Tickets: $15 Student/low income: $10

Jim Page
Saturday, February 19, 8:00 PM
"Jim's been writing great topical songs for as long as I can remember, bringing his acute wit and wry humor to a host of subjects that can really use both. In the tradition of Woody and Dylan, he cuts right to the heart with music you actually enjoy listening to. I'm a longtime admirer." - Bonnie Raitt Tonight's performance will also include special guest violinist Michael Gray of "Pearl Django."
Tickets: $12 Student/low income: $8

A Bluegrass and Acoustic Music Jam
Sunday, February 20, 2:00 PM
3rd Sunday monthly jam of bluegrass and acoustic musicians

Uke and Singalong
Monday, February 21, 7:00 PM
Veteran folk musicians and uke enthusiasts and teachers Steve Einhorn and Kate Power bring a community event to Traditions.

Casey Neill
Saturday, February 26, 8:00 PM
Casey Neill's sound combines narrative story songs, haunting ballads, and high energy whiskey fueled rave ups. He tours extensively in the US, Japan, and UK. Along the way, Neill's sound has explored traditional Scots/Irish music, Americana, post punk, and indie folk. Five records of Casey's music have been released. The latest recording, "Goodbye to the Rank and File," has garnered rave reviews from radio, press, and blogs. It is the first to feature his band, the Norway Rats. Casey has a good Olympia following and it's been a long time since his last Traditions appearance. He will be touring solo when he comes to Traditions. "These are songs with stories well told. This is what it's all about." - Steve Earle
Tickets: $12 Student/low income: $8

Steve Smith & Chris Sanders
Thursday, March 3, 8:00 PM
This vocal duo features strong original tunes and outstanding instrumentation.
Tickets: $12 Student/low income: $8

FOR Benefit with Tom Rawson
Friday, March 4, 7:30 PM
Olympia Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation presents their annual benefit show with noted peace activist and singer Tom Rawson. Tom will get you singing and laughing and besides, as in his words, he has a banjo and he is not afraid to use it. Rawson has charmed and invigorated audiences throughout the Pacific Northwest with his infectious wit, energy and songs that you just can't resist singing along with. Admission is a self-determined $10 to $25.

John Stowell & Paul Meyers
Saturday, March 5, 8:00 PM
Two outstanding jazz guitarists grace our stage. John Stowell is well-known for his work, and tonight he will be joined by New York guitarist Paul Meyers. They will perform solo as well as a duo for a jazz show that you would not want to miss.
Tickets: $12 Student/low income: $8

Community Special Events

Speak out on biomass incinerator and SB 5228!
Wednesday, Feb. 2, 1:30 pm
Hearing Room #4
Cherberg Building
State Capitol Campus, Olympia

We need you to come to Olympia to speak against the incinerator and SB 5228 that would allow it to be built. Or come to support others who speak. We need lots of people present. You can register opposition simply by signing in. Any Washington resident is welcome.

For more info: www.ccthurston.net

END:CIV
Sunday, February 6
Olympia Film Society
Doors open at 1:30, screening starts at 2:00

END:CIV examines our culture's addiction to systematic violence and environmental exploitation, and probes the resulting epidemic of poisoned landscapes and shell-shocked nations. The causes underlying the collapse of civilizations are usually traced to overuse of resources. As we write this, the world is reeling from economic chaos, peak oil, climate change, environmental degradation, and political turmoil. Every day, the headlines re-hash stories of scandal and betrayal of the public trust. We don't have to make outraged demands for the end of the current global system - it seems to be coming apart already. Backed by Jensen's narrative, the film calls on us to act as if we truly love this land. (75 minutes.)

Tickets $8 at the door, $7 for members. More info at olympiafilmsociety.org

Keep the moratorium on biomass facilities in Thurston County!
Monday, February 7th, 5:30 pm
Thurston County Courthouse

We need you to speak in support of a moratorium that would delay permitting biomass facilities for one year so health and environmental impacts can be further studied. Or come to support others who speak. We need lots of people present. Any Washington resident is welcome.

For more info: www.ccthurston.net

Stories of adventure featuring The Thunders
Playback Theatre Performance
Friday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.
Traditions Café
300 5th Ave. SW, Olympia

This month's performance celebrates The Thunders, a group of young adults who have taken Playback Theatre workshops with us for the past 11 years.

The Heartsparkle Players' Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue.

Cost: Suggested donation $5-$10 (No one is turned away)

David Rovics coming to Olympia
Fundraiser for Honduras human rights work
Wednesday, February 16, 8 p.m.
The Cherry Loft
508 Legion Way, Olympia
$8-16 suggested donation

David Rovics joins Danny Kelly, Autococoon, 1985 and Toland Wright in this fundraiser for human rights work in Honduras.

All ages show - Must be 21 for beer garden. Sponsored by Media Island. 360-352-8526. mediaisland@riseup.net

Olympia community delegation to sister town of Santo Tomás informational meeting
Wednesday, February 16, 7pm
Lincoln Elementary Library
21st & Washington, Olympia
tstsca@gmail.com or (360) 943-8642

Learn about the upcoming Olympia community delegation to our sister town of Santo Tomás, Chontales, Nicaragua, in early July 2011; attend an informal presentation (with assessment of your interests).

Imagine yourself with family, friends and neighbors in the small town of Santo Tomás for 11 days on a very supported, family friendly, language interpreted, and affordable experience (or a longer, 23 day version if your Spanish language skills are moderately strong).

Live with host families and reconnect with the 29 Nicaraguan friends we've met on delegations to Olympia over the past 21 years.

Participate in a volunteer opportunity prioritized by our sister organization – perhaps in a classroom, a construction project, health clinic work, web page

Events at Orca Books

Saturday, February 5, 6:00pm
Tom Schabarum
"The Palisades"

Tuesday, February 8, 6:00pm
Craig Lancaster
"The Summer Son"

Thursday, February 10, 6:00pm
Ruth Whisler Shearer
"Adventures in Seeking Environmental Justice in the 1980s"

Sunday, February 13, 2:30pm
Orcapod Book Group

Friday, February 18, 6:00pm
Mimi Marinucci
"Feminism is Queer: The Intimate Connection Between Queer and Feminist Theory"

Saturday, February 19, 6:00pm
Daniel Tucker
"Farm Together Now: A Portrait of People, Places and Ideas for a New Food Movement"

Saturday, February 26, 6:00pm
Karl Faler & Pals featuring the Tea Lady: Local Author-Bonanza (with tea)

Sunday, February 27, 2:30pm
Orca Writes! Orca Books' Writing Group

Friday, March 4, 6:00pm
Sara Wiseman
"Your Psychic Child"

509 East 4th Avenue in downtown Olympia

development, cultural workshop, or something else.

Spanish language interpretation will be provided for the group during the 11 day trip to accommodate Olympians with low-level Spanish language skills. Spanish classes will also be available in Santo Tomás.

Grace Cox and Jean Eberhardt will co-facilitate this summer's delegation.

Vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma

Saturday, February 19, 11 am

Bridges Not Walls invites your participation in a vigil at the Northwest Detention Center, which was built on a superfund toxic waste site near downtown Tacoma.

Carpool to leave Olympia at 11am from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural at Capitol and State, and will return to Oly by around 5pm.

The NWDC houses up to 1500 detainees and is run by GEO Group, a for-profit corporation that consumes $150,000 of taxpayers' taxes each night that it's full. Prisons and detention centers are a bizarre growth industry in the US!

Come bring coffee and food to support families that are visiting their locked-up loved ones and protest a failed immigration policy.

Email bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net or call (503) 970-3399 by Friday for more information on what to bring (and what not to bring).

"The True Cost of War" US Congressman Dennis Kucinich

Monday, February 21, 3:00 pm
Capitol Theater
206 5th Ave SE, Olympia

Congressman Kucinich is nationally recognized as a courageous voice for peace. He is a tireless advocate for ending the U.S. engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan and focusing federal spending priorities on domestic programs.

The event is sponsored by the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) and the local Veterans For Peace Rachel Corrie Chapter 109. Kucinich's speaking engagement will highlight the "Bring Our Billion$ Home" campaign of the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The "Bring Our Billion$ Home" campaign is informing and activating the public to urge Congress to reduce military spending and apply the savings to fund urgent human and environmental needs in the U.S.

A suggested donation of $5 - $15 from those attending the event will go to cover costs and to benefit the sponsoring organizations.

For more information contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org or visit the Olympia FOR's website, www.olympiafor.org.

Bridges Not Walls Shelton meeting

Sunday, February 27, 4 pm
360-943-8642 for more information

Bridges Not Walls to meet at 4pm in downtown Shelton at the Mason County Literacy office. The carpool from Olympia will leave promptly at 3:15pm from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural (State and Capitol).

Olympia Food Co-op Classes

Register in person at either store between 11am-6pm daily or online at http://www.olympiafood.coop/classes.

Winter Immune Boost

Ava Waits
Fertile Ground Guesthouse
7 February, Monday 7 - 8pm

How many times have you been sick this year? If you've had more than one or two colds, you need to come to this class. We will talk about the food, self-care practices and natural supplements that can keep you from getting sick for the rest of the rainy season.

Garden Planning for Seed Saving

Caitlin Moore
GRuB Farmhouse
11 February, Friday 6:30 - 8:30pm

This workshop is designed to help backyard gardeners plan their gardens and to give an introduction to seed saving. After attending this workshop, gardeners will be able to understand the steps necessary to plan their own garden, be able to interpret garden catalog information and apply it to developing a garden design, and be able to incorporate seed saving into that design. Gardeners will leave with many helpful handouts, and a map of their own gardens to use when planting in the spring.

Gluten-free Baking

Jenn Kliese
Fertile Ground Guesthouse
13 February, Sunday 3:30 - 5:30pm

Delightful scones, Irish soda bread, and mouthwatering petit tea cakes are no longer a thing of the past. Learn how to make tea time into a midday break to remember. (All gluten-free with options for dairy-free and egg-free too.)

Knife Skills for the Home Kitchen

Chie Okazaki
GRuB Farmhouse
18 February, Friday 6:30 - 8:30pm

Wanting to eat more vegetables, but don't know much about preparing them or don't feel confident working with a kitchen knife? This class is for you! We will explore the different types of knives that are useful in the kitchen, the different material the blades are made with, and how to hold your knives for best comfort and safety. Then we will practice some cuts such as mincing, dicing, slicing, chiffonade, oblique, julienne, Asian julienne, & supremes to make a few appealing dishes for us to try.

How to Eat In a one to two Person Household

Ava Waits
Fertile Ground Guesthouse
24 February, Thursday 7 - 8pm

Perfect for moms, dads, and families who no longer have to cook for their growing children. We will discuss quick, smaller meals to satisfy your shrinking family, keep you healthy, and impress kids when they come home to visit.

Successful Starts

Caitlin Moore
GRuB Farmhouse
25 February, Friday 6:30 - 8:30pm

We will demonstrate how to start seeds in your home to get a head "start" on the season. Taught by a former greenhouse manager, we go over basic planting, lighting, watering, and fertilizer, and how to make a greenhouse small enough for apartment dwellers. Product resource lists will be provided.

Incorporating Superfoods and Internal Cleansing into Your Wellness Program

Doug Walsh of HealthForce Nutritionals
Olympia Food Co-op Community Classroom
1 March, Tuesday 7 - 9pm

Our bodies were not designed for life in the modern industrial age. The average human in the United States is exposed to 2 million toxic molecules per day - we live in a virtual chemical soup. Combine this with the fact our foods are often over-processed, overcooked, and full of chemicals. Our soils (and therefore our foods) are so depleted that many in this country are actually malnourished in micronutrients (minerals and vitamins). Any quality health program will thus have two crucial aspects - supporting your bodies' detoxification efforts and upgrading your nutritional intake. Doug Walsh will present cutting edge solutions that will assist you in creating a radical shift in your physical health. This class has no registration fee.

Regularly scheduled events

PFLAG Olympia

2nd Sunday, 2:00pm
First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way SE in Olympia

Sunday, Feb. 13, 2-4:30 pm
Roots of Violence — Rosalinda Noriega from Partners in Prevention Education to speak on "The Roots of Violence and Oppression" at our February meeting.

Drunken Poetry

Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
1st Monday of month, 7:30-9:30pm

Readings operate on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Our time is limited so we're looking for something in the ballpark of three poems of moderate length or one long poem and one short from each reader.

Drinking Liberally

1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 pm
Bally Hoo Irish Pub & Restaurant
316 Schmidt Place, Tumwater

Local chapter of loosely structured national organization dedicated to discussion of liberal and progressive politics.

Tuesday Read-Ins

Tuesdays, 5-7pm
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia

Come in, sit, read and drink free tea!

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies

Providence Health Int'l / CHUMA, 2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be aged 14 or above. CHUMA International (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring that useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries.

Medical supplies are sent to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda, and other countries. Help CHUMA's volunteer efforts locally Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

F.O.R. TV Program

Mondays at 1:30 pm
Thursdays at 9:00pm
Channel 22

February program: http://www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm

If you live outside of Thurston County or if you don't have cable TV, you can watch more than 60 of Fellowship Of Reconciliation's recent TV programs on your computer! Visit www.olympiafor.org then click the link for TV Programs and click any program you want to watch.

Memoir Writing Group

Tuesdays, 1-3 PM
State Capitol Museum,
211 21st Ave SW, Olympia,
360-753-2580

The Memoir Writing Group at the State Capital Museum has been meeting regularly for nearly two years. The group explores the past through writing and assembling their memoirs. Led by Delores Kelso Nelson, a writer and teacher in the Olympia area for over 15 years, the memoir class serves participants by igniting lost memories, supporting practicing memoir writers, and offering a chance to socialize. Cost is $6 per class or 5 classes for $24

Peace Vigil

NW corner of Sylvester Park
Wednesdays 12 pm: Legion & Capitol

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1980. 360-491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank

Wednesdays 1:00-3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia

The YWCA Other Bank provides free hygiene and cleaning supplies to families in need -- items that cannot be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. 360-352-0593

PLEASE DONATE! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups

Wednesdays -- 360-705-2738
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group
7-9pm for 18+ group.

Stonewall Youth is an organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. www.stonewallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Veterans For Peace, locally produced

Wednesdays, 5 pm
Fridays, 9 - 10 pm
Thurston County TV (TCTV)

Info: Dennis Mills 360-867-1487
mills.dennis@comcast.net

"Parallel University"

Thursdays, 12 - 1 pm:
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/

Informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Percival Landing Peace Vigil

Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to come to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998. 360-491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Women in Black

Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm:
W. 4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a loose network of women worldwide committed to peace with justice. Info: Karin 360-754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Bread and Roses

Saturdays, 1-5 PM
1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia

We're building a food garden! By summertime next year, every square foot of land at the Bread & Roses community will be growing fruits, nuts, herbs, and vegetables for our community meals and for local soup kitchens and food banks. If you like to play in the soil, if you have a pickup truck, if you have yard tools to loan, if you are passionate about organic gardening or local food security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please come join us! If you have other skills, there are a lot of ways to get involved. Help us paint the shelter, make repairs, can our home-grown food, prepare the Saturday Supper, or build new furniture for the shelter. Followed by Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses' volunteer hosts serve a gourmet meal Saturday evenings. www.breadandrosesolympia.org 360-754-4085

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)

Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Larry 360-866-2404 lmosqueda@comcast.net

February 2011

FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990

P.O.W.E.R. takes on the Governor's budget cuts
Judge orders investigation into ethics violations from 2009 Seattle mayoral race
Recognizing Palestine
Lies and propaganda of the Gulf War
Public Biomass meetings this month
Dennis Kucinich
COMING TO OLYMPIA!
Monday, Feb 21 - 3:00 pm
Capitol Theater

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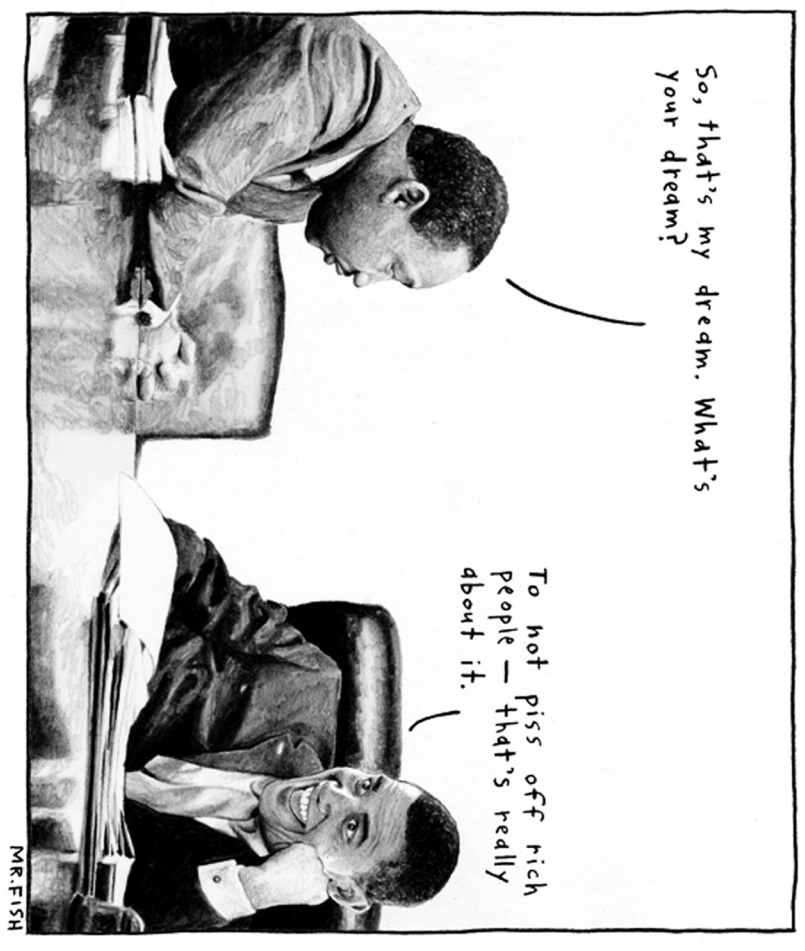
McNamara's Fog

Little
cat feet?
Oh No!

Instead, a hood,
locked and tied
down.

Drowning
our city
to sleep.

2009 – Bethel Prescott



Works in Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507